



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

NGI

Project Title

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

Countries

Mauritania

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

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

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

36 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

104,709.00

Submission Date

11/19/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-3-8	GET	1,102,200.00	161,450.00
	Total Project Cost (\$)	1,102,200.00	161,450.00

B. Indicative 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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Strengthening Mauritania's capacity to collect and process climate change data into useful information for policy-making and reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Technical Assistance	Mauritania improves its Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system and institutional capacity to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework	<p>Output 1. National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and implement climate transparency activities</p> <p>Output 2. Technical support, training and tools provided to the country to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories</p> <p>Output 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</p>	GET	1,002,000.00	151,430.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	1,002,000.00	151,430.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	100,200.00	10,020.00
				Sub Total(\$)	100,200.00	10,020.00
				Total Project Cost(\$)	1,102,200.00	161,450.00

C. Indicative 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	Government of Mauritania	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	161,450.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	161,450.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Mauritania	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,102,200	104,709	1,206,909.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					1,102,200.00	104,709.00	1,206,909.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

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

Core Indicators

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	14			
Male	31			
Total	45	0	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

The 45 direct beneficiaries consist of the Sectoral Focal Points 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 achieve a more balanced gender representation, aiming to double female sectoral focal points to 14 during the project implementation. The Sectoral Focal Points network in line ministries and national institutions will be extended to the new created structures following the presidential elections of June 2019.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1 - THE 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 sources. According to climate scenarios, Mauritania is likely to experience a high socio-economic and ecological exposure to climate change, and the already noticeable effects of climate change have had 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. Both the previous Cancún 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; being previously only subject to submit National Communications (NCs), including national GHG inventories, they were then required to provide Biennial Update Reports (BURs).

With the adoption of the Paris Agreement, all countries agreed on an enhanced transparency framework 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 in light of 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 systems and strategic de-carbonization planning. This entails moving from often disintegrated, ad-hoc and not consistently updated different methodologies for data collection to an integrated and robust 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 efforts to build robust domestic and regulatory processes.

In the case of Mauritania, structural and 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:

- i. **Institutional gaps and barriers** in the coordination of activities to combat environmental degradation and climate change; notably, as a gap, one could cite the absence of data-sharing procedures and the lack of data protection instructions; as main barriers, the weaknesses in inter-sectoral, regional and national coordination together with the poor and very slow process of mainstreaming climate change into decision-making and development policies;
- ii. **Legal, regulatory and formal procedural gaps and barriers** in establishing proper mandates and implementation tools; especially the lack of mention of climate change in the Mauritanian Environmental Code and its implementing texts as well as the lack of regulatory documents to assign mandates and responsibilities on MRV;
- iii. **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 selected sources and the lack of country-specific emission factors;
- iv. **Lack of capacities and technical expertise**; including, among others, the weak capacity of the structures producing and holding activity data, the insufficient national technical expertise both quantitatively and qualitatively, and the obsolete nature of the systems for collecting, processing and storing data and transferring observations;
- v. **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;

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 - THE BASELINE SCENARIO OR 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 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 following transparency reports 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) – work on the Second BUR has started in October 2018 and expected to be achieved in 2020;
- iii. Four national GHG Inventories; the latest having incorporated the updated 2006 IPCC guidelines, the 2006 guidance of the Consultative Group of Experts of the UNFCCC and the 2001 and 2003 IPCC good practice guidance;
- iv. Its National Determined Contribution in September 2015, having swiftly joined the Paris agreement in February 2017.

Environmental governance is assigned to the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). Other ministerial departments involved in the field of environment, including climate change and food security are the following:

- i. Ministry of Rural Development, comprising agriculture and livestock;
- ii. Ministry of Finance
- iii. Ministry of Interior and Decentralization
- iv. Ministry of Economy and Industry;
- v. Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation;
- vi. Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy;
- vii. Ministry of Equipment and Transport;
- viii. Ministry of Housing, Township and Country Planning;
- ix. Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mining;
- x. Ministry of Social Affairs, Childhood and the Family;
- xi. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism;
- xii. Ministry of Health General Delegation for Solidarity and Fight Against Exclusion - Taazour.

The mechanism for coordinating sustainable development is organized by Decree no. 156/2012 which defines 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).

The CNEDD is an orientation council which decides on policies, strategies and work programs as well as on implementation, and gives the necessary orientations for a more efficient management of the environment and sustainable development. A multi-sectoral body, chaired by the Prime Minister, constitutes the first level of multi-sectoral steering and consultation in the field of the environment and sustainable development; The Technical Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (CTEDD) and the Regional Committees for Environment and Sustainable Development (CREDD) are subsidiary bodies of the CNEDD which are responsible for consultation, coordination and support to ensure the harmonious connection between the strategic and operational levels of the implementation of national environmental planning and sustainable development. The CTEDD is chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and is made up of sectoral representatives of environmental themes known as inter-sectoral platforms (Article 15 of Decree 156/2012). The CREDD, which comprised all decentralized structures of the ministries is in turn chaired by the Wali of the Wilaya at the regional and local level assisted by the DREDD (regional and local representative of the MEDD). These are arbitration bodies above the MRV system which could be referred to in case of conflict or need of an arbitration between the structures and institutions at lower level.

In an effort to consolidate the transparency requirements of the UNFCCC, Mauritania has established a [Coordination Unit for the National Climate Change Program \(CCPNCC\)](#), [within the](#) Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) in 2009. This unit is headed by a coordinator who is a senior official of the ministry called *Chargé de Mission*, who works cumulatively as the UNFCCC Focal Point. He is assisted in his daily duty by a Coordinator Assistant, 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 relies also on other administrative support staff of the MEDD upon request. [The CCPNCC relies on a task force made up of sectoral focal points \(PFS\), of line ministries, each designated by his/her ministry, civil society and the private sector.](#) Finally, the unit has relied overtime upon a multidisciplinary team of more than ten independent Mauritanian experts [from academia and universities to conduct studies and research specific to its business of argumentation, advocacy and information and awareness-raising](#), who benefitted from capacity-building activities of the various UNFCCC enabling activities. [The CCPNCC](#) in Mauritania never ceased, since its creation, to develop and mainstream climate change into other sectors' policies and strategies while enhancing its 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](#) has worked in involving all stakeholders through the establishment in 2013 of a network of sectoral focal points on climate change in each sector (or PFSCC in its French acronym); and later in 2016 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. The PFSCC is thus a senior official appointed within each Ministry by the respective Minister as the focal point for climate change issues, and tasked to work in close collaboration and in interface with the CCPNCC in MEDD; he or she will be also leading the respective sectors' or Ministry's Working Groups on Climate Change. Mauritania has thus developed a network of sectoral focal points for climate change within ministerial departments as to improve the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and systematically introduce climate change concerns in all sectoral activities.

This institutional device piloted by the sectoral focal point at the Ministerial level and by the CCPNCC at the national level has been used to prepare all NCs, BURs, NDCs, TNAs and now CBIT studies and reports since 2013. In the national GHG Inventories, for example, data are provided, measured, analysed and reported (also compiled at the sector level) by the respective Ministries; then, this total relevant information collected at sectoral level is transmitted to the CCPNCC for national approval process and/or archiving. Finally, the data and information are stored simultaneously in the database unit of the CCPNCC and, where relevant, within the Ministry's appropriate location. 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.

The BUR and NC preparation process start with the preparation, analysis and compilation of reports at the sectoral level under the responsibility of the sectoral focal point with support from an independent expert provided by the CCPNCC. Then the compilation of sectoral reports and quality control take place at the national level under the responsibility of a Thematic Team Leader at CCPNCC. All reports are subsequently technically controlled by a Senior Advisor to the CCPNCC Manager. All reports (sectoral or compiled) are then submitted to a workshop convened by the CCPNCC manager 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. The CCPNCC is aiming to submit its BUR2 report to the UN-Global Support Program for peer-review before September 2020, prior to its final submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Archiving takes place alternatively at each Ministry, as for the sectoral reports and data; and at the CCPNCC for the national and compiled reports. There is a database unit managed by a database specialist at the CCPNCC. 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 CCPNCC^[1] and enabled through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program support, which needs to be regularly reinforced and updated.

Similarly, Mauritania has set up a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for its National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, 2017-2030 (SNEDD), set for the entire environmental sector and the so-called "National Environmental Action Plan" (SEPANE), at the Directorate of Planning and Intersectorial 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^[2], collects all information and data related to the environment and sustainable development as a whole and across the nation; and thus will be providing an umbrella to CBIT but not a substitute nor concurrent. Since the CBIT project in CCPNCC will be focusing on all climate issues, therefore contributing to what the current M&E system does by covering the climate change aspects, it will further support the government by building capacities of the M&E structures of all concerned ministries. As part of the ongoing efforts to improve the quality of the national transparency products of the SNEDD, CBIT will be improving the quality of information generated by NCs, BURs, other enabling activities and national GHG inventories, climate finance and inputs from projects implemented countrywide, besides setting up a permanent structure to enable BTR reporting on a continuous basis.

On the other hand, CCPNCC is supported by the sectoral focal points in the process of guiding sectoral ministries on how to conduct their sectoral NC, BUR and other reports. Sectoral ministries are thus encouraged to soon be responsible for their own respective inventories and contributions with a view to improving the quality of sectoral data and the preparation of 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).

Moreover, the Mauritanian government has made considerable efforts to integrate climate issues into its development planning, particularly the Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction (CSLP 2011-2015) and (ii) the National Strategy for Food Security (SNSA). This consideration has been repeated in the country's new vision for development beyond 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;

§ "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 national NDC as a key source document for future development plans.

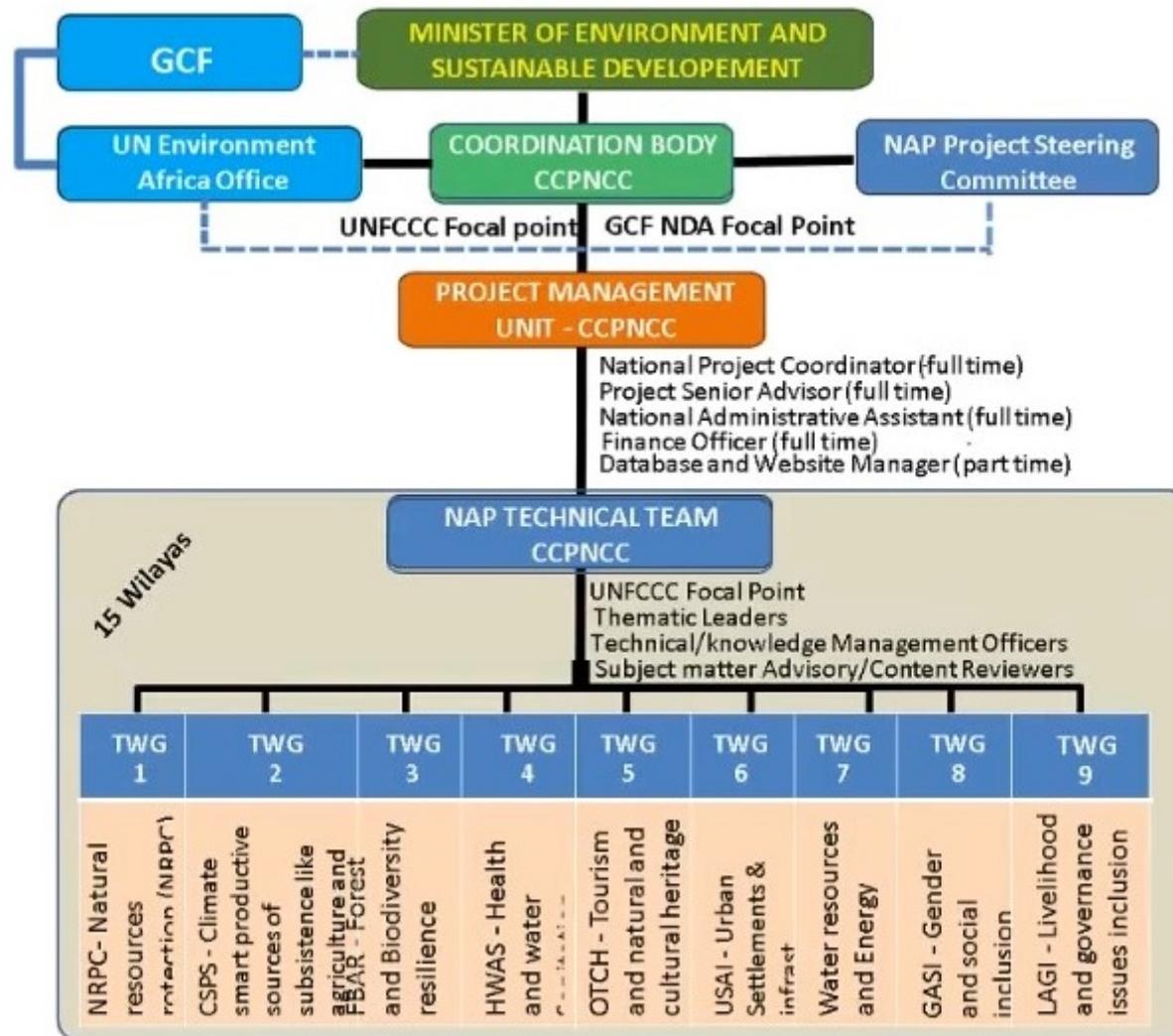
While issues related to climate change gained political attention and momentum, gaps and barriers for the development of robust transparency products became more evident (concerning the development of NCs, GHG Inventories and BURs); it also became clear that the established structure in Mauritania was in dire need to enhance its transparency capacities and efforts. As a response to these needs, the sectoral focal point approach is currently evolving since 2016, towards the expansion of the system to a network of

sectoral task forces or sectoral technical working groups (GTSCC), along with a long-term vision of establishing an independent academic arbitral authority, comprising three research units from academic institutions and the civil society, in order to foster auditing and quality control and a basis for future domestic MRV^[3]. The sectoral working groups are each chaired by their respective PFSCC, currently with a gender disparity of 7 females and 38 males, and have as members department representatives who manage climate related activities, or activities related to data and statistics relevant for climate change, being designated by an administrative act of the Minister (order, memo or letter), and officially notified to the MEDD.

The sectoral focal point comprising GTNCC and the newly established GTSCC are responsible for technical support to CCPNCC. Their objective is to promote the decentralization of climate change-related activities to Sectoral Departments. The GTSCC is responsible for (see the institutional structure for climate change illustrated in the following figure 1):

- i. Promoting and monitoring the implementation of climate change activities; and
- ii. Ensuring the technical quality of the documents to be produced through climate change activities on behalf of the Department, before their validation and sharing with the MEDD.

Figure 1: Structure of the National Transparency Framework



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

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, and the country doesn't 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, with robust domestic and regulatory processes. Despite having been able to provide NCs, updated national GHG inventories, its first BUR and its NDC, the process of producing these reports is not structured and has usually happened on an ad hoc basis, and partially dependent on external financial support. In addition, Mauritania's NDC is explicit about the country's challenges in MRV, describing how the MRV approach has never actually been applied to mitigation measures. Yet, Mauritania has taken steps with the intent to gradually improve this situation: amongst other efforts, the country became member of the Central and North Africa Regional MRV Networks in September 2019.

CHALLENGES, GAPS AND BARRIERS

The identification of challenges, gaps and barriers 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 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. 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 (MDEDD) and was not a Ministry in its own right, which did not give it sufficient credentials or institutional weight to assert itself to the other structures of the State, in order to carry the message of integration of climate change into sectoral strategies and policies. This weighed heavily on the activities of the CCPNCC, particularly in the collection of needed data from other departments. 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.

There are key ministries and agencies that collect and publish sector-specific activity data that are obtained when it becomes publicly available. The key ones are the energy statistics published annually by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and Mines (MPEMi); agriculture facts and figures by the Ministry of Agriculture (MA), and the Ministry of livestock (ME)^[4], every year, vehicle population and inspection statistics by the Ministry of Transport and Equipment (MET) and the 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 relating to missing data, including data with time series gaps, inability to access data timely, non-existing data sharing procedures and lack of data protection instructions.

Although the data published by the institutions are largely relevant to the sectorial reports, a lot of improvements are needed in several areas. Often, the data published from these public data platforms do not contain the necessary details or the necessary statistical information to allow a comprehensive climate reporting.

It is therefore clear that the development and implementation of sound institutional arrangements will require time before becoming fully operational and operating without barriers (*MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017, and 3rd National Communication*).

One of the main barriers is still the weaknesses in inter-sectoral and national-regional coordination. Although efforts have been made to clarify the missions and attributions of the MEDD, and the establishment of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and Regional Councils for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CREDDs), there are still a range of barriers that need to be addressed, including:

- i. Challenges for MEDD in uniting efforts and creating a space for dialogue and coordination around environmental and sustainable development issues,
- ii. Excessive silo approach of interventions in separate sectors,
- iii. Poor and very slow process of mainstreaming climate change into decision-making and development policies
- iv. The perception of environmental issues as 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
- v. The lack of resources to ensure effective coordination at the national and regional level
- vi. Gaps and constraints in identifying and monitoring implementation of mitigation measures, particularly NAMAs
- vii. Lack of a formal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process

(Source: National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017, and 3rd National Communication)

Regulatory and formalized procedural gaps and barriers

The main regulatory gap in relation to climate change is the lack of mention of climate change in the Mauritanian Environmental Code and its implementing texts. GHG emissions are unregulated, making access to monitor the sources more difficult. Several implementing texts provided for by the Environmental Code have not yet been put in place; these texts should explicitly include aspects of climate change and especially the issue of GHG emissions. In addition, as legislative/regulatory text in many cases is not operationalized, the Environmental Code and its implementing text should include a system, to ensure proper access to and sharing of GHG, and mitigation and adaptation relevant information and data (National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development, and 3rd National Communication). The main regulatory barriers can be summarized as follows:

- i. Lack of integration of climate change and GHG in the legal code;
- ii. Lack of regulatory documents to assign mandates and responsibilities on MRV of GHG emissions, climate change data, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators and climate finance;
- iii. Limited mainstreaming of gender issues into development and climate change policies, especially in technical activities like MRV;
- iv. Lack of tools to enforce regulation.

Access to information and data

Despite the effort to cover all existing sources and sinks, the national inventory still has some gaps, e.g. 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 sources. 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 C emissions due to the drainage of organic soils of forests. In addition, data on several sources doesn't 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 Inventories studies. There are also specific barriers in monitoring emissions from the Livestock sector, a major sector of importance for Mauritania. Being a desert and high-mobility breeding country (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 statistical census becomes easier and less expensive. This situation could however be greatly improved with capacity building efforts to the newly created Ministry of Livestock (2016), allowing them to better administer surveys and sampling, or even utilize satellite images to get precise 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.

The main deficiency remains the low level of adequacy of emission factors to local conditions in the country; all factors used are default, which e.g. for the AFOLU sector are greatly conditioned to GHG estimates, often affected by errors of evaluation and classification^[5]. In terms of data storage and accessibility, the current database is set up on the premises of the CCPNCC, but it should be updated periodically using news tools, and enhance its visibility and availability to incite more utilization for research purposes and planning.

The main barriers related to data and access to information can be summarized as follows:

- i. Lack of activity data to estimate emissions and removals from selected sources;
- ii. Lack of capacity and funds to perform livestock census, or technical capacity to apply robust livestock surveys and sampling methodologies;
- iii. Lack of country-specific emission factors and technical capacity to establish them and move to higher-tier approaches;
- iv. Lack of application of data and knowledge management software.

Capacity-building needs and barriers

The need for capacity building has been a recurrent barrier for Mauritania's ability to plan, implement and monitor climate policies and actions. 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. In addition, a real weakness exists in the means of diagnosis and monitoring of 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, and wild and terrestrial flora, and the urban and industrial environment are still very weak. The

function of monitoring terrestrial natural resources (vegetation, fauna and flora) is limited due to much reduced personnel and to absence of technical means. No laboratory for analysis and monitoring of air quality exists in the country. The weakness of skills responding to the profiles requested is one of the major problems of the CCPNCC; competencies, when they exist, are not always assigned to the right positions, and many of the positions with defined profiles do not have the right skills.

The main gaps related to capacity-building needs can be summarized as follows^[6]:

- i. The weak capacity of the structures producing and holding activity data;
- ii. Insufficient national technical expertise both quantitatively and qualitatively;
- iii. Low level of motivation to ensure staff availability due to overburden;
- iv. 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;
- v. Insufficient technical knowledge on the application of methodologies and software;
- vi. The obsolete nature of the systems for collecting, processing and storing data and transferring observations
- vii. Technical difficulties in identifying appropriate technologies and estimating costs;
- viii. The model chosen for the development of climate change scenarios was considered to be underperforming;
- ix. Insufficient availability of resource persons mandated by institutions for climate change studies specific to their own sectors;
- x. The environment and, in particular climate change, is not yet considered as a separate discipline in education in Mauritania;
- xi. Insufficient capacity for stakeholder involvement and lack of institutional and technical expertise in the different sectors;
- xii. Gaps and constraints in assessing the technical and capacity-building needs in detail and mobilizing financial resources.

Financial barriers

Another barrier to establish an ETF is the insufficiency of financial means granted to the MEDD by the State budget to reinforce its capacities for intervention and operation; for example, the lack of mobilization of funds to acquire software and undertake in-situ demonstrative activities of the resilience of communities and their sources of livelihood. The CCPNCC does not have sufficient human, financial and material resources to carry out its mission properly^[7].

The financial shortcomings can be summarized as follows:

- i. Lack of funding for research projects related to climate change;
- ii. Low State contribution to Climate Change projects and initiatives.

ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS – NATIONAL EFFORTS

Developing Mauritania's Domestic Monitoring Reporting and Verification System

Having identified the gaps and barriers described above, Mauritania is already in 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 as for developing and operationalizing its national MRV system was focused on integrating MRV into the existing national M&E system for monitoring national development, rather than establishing a new layer of institutional structures for MRV. The MRV system aims to build upon the existing M&E system and incorporate the following aspects:

1. Monitoring of GHG emissions or reductions attributed to specific mitigation measures (policies, programs, measure or project);
2. Monitoring of climate support (provided by the government or received from donors or in some form of market funding),
3. Technology transfer and capacity building to enable the implementation of climate actions or measures;
4. Co-benefits or sustainable development benefits associated with mitigation measures.

To this end, Mauritania has designed a simple non-burdensome MRV structure (see Figure 1) easy to integrate and be accepted by the identified institutions, while meeting the essential elements of an MRV system. Although the new structure has been developed for the preparation of the latest National Communication and BUR, it is not fully institutionalised, and it doesn't have the necessary modalities and procedures to ensure continuous MRV. Current UNFCCC reporting is done on an ad-hoc basis, and there is a need to institutionalise and formalise continuous MRV processes in the technical working groups in order to respond to the ETF requirements of biennial reporting on (i) GHG inventory (ii) NDC implementation progress and achievement (iii) climate impacts and adaptation (iv) support needed and received. The following design and operationalization plan to enhance Mauritania's national MRV system forms the basis for the requested GEF support, and is expected to be rolled out from 2019 to 2022.

Step 1: Planning and design stage

At start, roles and responsibilities of each entity in the MRV system will be determined in consultation with the various components of the national network of climate change sector focal points (SFP), climate committee and partners. In this context, the new independent team will determine whether current sectoral M & E data are compatible with an appropriate MRV system and what the needs may be for integrating it into a centralized climate data-sharing system in a national registry at the climate coordination hub. To carry out this action, the team will ensure capacity-building of the stakeholders in the field. Considering the urgency of the process to set up the MRV system to produce GHG inventories and NDCs, this step must be carried out as soon as possible. This step will lead to the design of the MRV system prototype, including the collection protocols and networking climate data.

Step 2: MRV and M&E Integration

The MRV setup will be integrated into existing M&E both at the national, sectoral and at the 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 Annual Progress Report (APR). The APR will then become the main M&E framework for monitoring implementation of mitigation actions and their GHG impacts and co-benefits. MRV/M&E templates will be developed and incorporated into the existing reporting template. Implementing this type of M&E system allows the sectors/ key stakeholders to evaluate progress and if needed modify and make adjustments to 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.

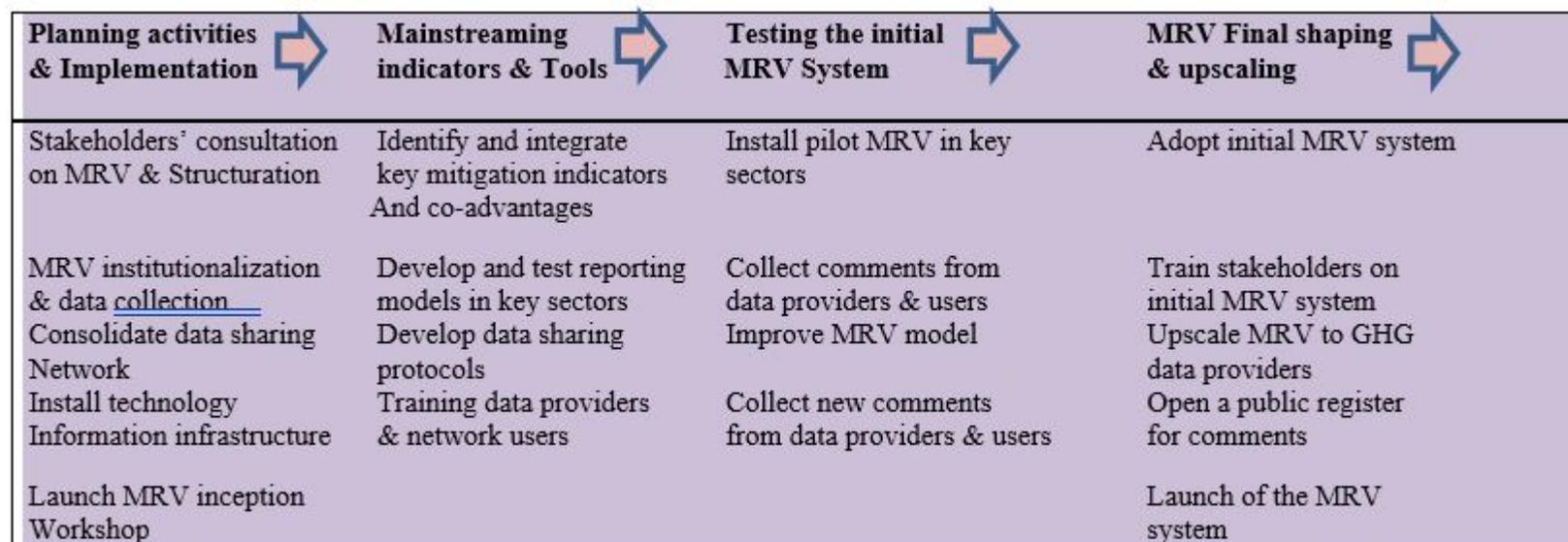
Step 3: Pilot and test application

The MRV setup will be piloted simultaneously over the course of the Second BUR (BUR2) in five key focus areas: Energy, Transports, Agriculture and Sylvo-pastoral systems as to test the workability of the system.

Step 4: Deployment and 1st upgrade

The feedback from the pilots will be used to upgrade the MRV system before the full deployment that begins before December 2020. Prior to that, regular biennial system-wide audit and stakeholder will be performed to identify areas of improvement.

Figure 2: Process and activities for rolling out and institutionalizing the domestic MRV system



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

Mauritania's CBIT proposal will consolidate and build on the foundation laid in setting up a functional and robust MRV system that can withstand long-term climate reporting in-country and to the international community. 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 NDC sectors to be included in Mauritania's 1st medium term plan – Yr. 2017-2020.

ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS – INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

Project	Support Institution	Implementing Agency	Status	Description
Initial National Communication	GEF	UNEP	Terminated	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 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.
Second National Communication (NC2)	GEF	UNEP	Terminated	
Third National Communication (NC3)	GEF	UNEP	Terminated	
First Biennial Update Report (BUR1)	GEF	UNEP	Terminated	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.
Fourth National Communication (NC4)	GEF	UNEP	Ongoing	Mauritania is presently preparing its NC4. It is expected that the NC4 will address some of the areas identified for improvement in the future reporting, facilitated through CBIT activities.
Second Biennial Update Report	GEF	UNEP	Planned	Mauritania has launched its Second BUR based on GEF funding. It is expected that the BUR2 will fill some of the gaps described in the baseline scenario based on BUR1 and NC3, enabled by the CBIT activities.

3 - THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

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 system provides greater transparency, accuracy and comparability of information on mitigation measures, and allow Mauritania to:

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

These improvements allowing for continuous reporting will also enable Mauritania to properly monitor and regularly assess the effectiveness and impacts of its climate change policies, allowing for potential adjustments if needed, creation of political buy-in, and potential increase in NDC ambition over time. Even though the implementation of various support initiatives has enabled Mauritania to build a basic foundation for MRV, a lot still remains to be done. This is partly because the existing national GHG inventory system does not link to Mauritania's NDC priority sectors, nor is the information generated from this system used in the national decision-making and policy formulation processes, particularly in the energy sector. Mauritania's CBIT project will therefore build on the existing GHG inventory 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.

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

- i. Track progress and effectiveness of climate actions' implementation;
- ii. Track progress of the achievement of NDC goals at a given time; and
- iii. 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 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 to adapt 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 integrate its national MRV system to track GHG emissions; and to report on NDC implementation, in order to be responsive to new transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.

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

The current (limiting) behavior that will be addressed to support realization of the outcome	Desired/transformation behavior
<p>(i) There is insufficient knowledge amongst CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points in the national MRV system regarding the future reporting requirements under the ETF. Such background creates uncertainty about what will be the object of MRV in the near future, and if additional capacities will be needed. In addition, the lack of streamlined formalized roles and responsibilities, as well as of formalized procedures for data collection and reporting, creates bottlenecks and leaves CCPNCC staff with no effective tool to request specific information needed, giving no incentives for focal points to provide complete and reliable data series.</p> <p>(ii) Moreover, sectoral data is mainly stored in the relevant line ministries. Sectoral focal points experience knowledge gaps and lack of access to data on several sources including for the forestry and energy sector. There is also need to improve the capacities to manage surveys and sampling, and utilize satellite images to get precise figures on livestock. Once the information is collected, it is stored in a database on the premises of the CCPNCC. However, it should be periodically updated using new tools.</p> <p>(iii) Institutional and information networks operation, data collection and management as well as planning, implementation and monitoring of climate actions are ultimately performed by staff in the relevant institutions and non-state actor entities. Therefore, the effective functioning of enhanced MRV institutional structures, data collection and sharing modalities, procedures and networks, is ultimately dependent on the availability of staff with the appropriate capacities, resources and technical skills to perform the required tasks and operate the established systems.</p> <p>(iv) There is an unfavourable gender balance amongst the 45 Sectoral Focal Points 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.</p>	<p>(i) Having formalized procedures that comply with future reporting requirements will give CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points clarity about their roles and responsibilities, and provide an incentive for timely provision of data and information with higher quality.</p> <p>(ii) Access by relevant sectoral focal points will be enhanced, including by increasing the visibility and availability of the database so as to incite more utilization for research purposes and planning. CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points will have the adequate guidance on data to be gathered and reported, besides an online service where the data should be uploaded. The clear guidance will ease reporting procedures for the main beneficiaries and their respective institutions. Furthermore, the access to relevant data through a centralized data sharing network will not only enhance transparency, but also enable better-informed policy planning and implementation in the different sectors. The amount, level of detail and frequency of data reported by sectoral focal points are expected to increase.</p> <p>(iii) By strengthening capacities of CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points to perform a better MRV of sectoral climate change emissions and impacts of sectoral programmes, thus producing more detailed and country-specific data, the project will provide the direct beneficiaries and decision-makers with better tools to design, evaluate and implement concrete climate change measures. The piloting and testing of the enhanced MRV system will provide a hands-on experience which will allow the trained staff to become confident with the new roles, responsibilities, procedures and methods, allowing them to see the positive results of having such a system and make informed policy decisions. They will also be able to replicate the training activities to capacitate additional staff and replicate the experience in other sectors.</p> <p>(iv) The project will strive to achieve a more balanced gender representation, aiming to double female sectoral focal points to 14 during the project implementation, by requesting the institutions to provide female candidates to the focal point positions, and by prioritizing women in the capacity building activities during project implementation. Shedding light on how women and men participate in climate change-related decision making and transparency activities, the project will contribute to women's equal engagement in and benefit from climate action.</p>

Potential indicators to be further defined and adjusted at project preparation stage to assess the above-mentioned behavioral change of main beneficiaries are:

- i. Number of CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points participating in training on future reporting requirements under the new modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPG) for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
- ii. Number of CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points providing high quality information on time;
- iii. Number of existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) describing coordination roles and responsibilities of relevant institutions in MRV functions, including procedures for data collection and reporting in the national MRV system;
- iv. Number of CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points that use the centralized network;
- v. Frequency and level of detail of reporting by CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points into the system;
- vi. Application of country-specific AFOLU emission factors in new national and sectoral climate change strategies, policies and measures, including NDC implementation plan;
- vii. Number of CCPNCC staff and sectoral focal points disaggregated by gender.

Measurement and verification methods for the above indicators can be a combination of: (i) questionnaires; (ii) direct counting of existing MoUs between the institutions involved in the national MRV system; (iii) direct counting of existing centralized network access profiles, ex-post assessment of the data sets provided, comparing the data sets prior to and after CBIT support; (iv) reports of training activities; and (v) review of the NDC implementation plan and national climate change documents.

The following sections describe the expected outputs:

Output 1. National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and implement climate transparency 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, climate actions, support received, and vulnerability & adaptation. As such, it aims at establishing effective institutional arrangements and legal framework to conduct MRV of GHG emissions, the implementation of Mauritania's Nationally Determined Contribution, concerning, mitigation, vulnerability & adaptation, as well as support needed and received, 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;
- 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 in the national MRV system.

Activity 1.1: Assess gaps and barriers to adhere to the ETF under the Paris Agreement and disseminate them to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders

The first step to enable a successful output would consist of performing an in-depth analysis of the current situation and identify the concrete gaps and barriers to be addressed in the current institutional arrangements so as to enable Mauritania to adhere to the ETF and its associated reporting. This is directly responding to the identified current barriers of capacity to assess the technical and 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 system's gaps and barriers will be assessed in order to apply the modalities, procedures and guidelines. The activities will consist of analysis 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. The activity will result in stakeholder workshops and a report describing the gaps and barriers to be assessed as well as potential ways to overcome these barriers in the institutional set-up of the MRV system.

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

This activity will produce an assessment of all institutions and non-state actor stakeholders involved in the MRV related work, including an assessment of best practices in similar countries. Institutional roles and responsibilities will then be reviewed by key stakeholders, with the aim of streamlining the coordination function for the preparation of NCs and BURs, internalizing the processes of their preparation so that they are not performed on an ad hoc basis, and expanding the scope and number of institutions to include the following selected NDC sectors:

- 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.

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 expected ETF and enable an effective MRV of climate action impacts, 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, thus creating the basis for better data management. QA/QC procedures will also be established.

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 detailed and reliable data that can be used to properly assess the national GHG emissions by sector. This Output will focus on building technical capacities in the country to enhance GHG inventories elaboration according to new guidelines. For this purpose, tools, templates and guidelines need to be adapted to the national context 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. Technical staff will be trained on IPCC 2006 or latest guidelines available and on tools developed under CBIT.

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 frequent GHG emissions reporting. 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.

Activity 2.2 Train the Working Group on Climate Change for the AFOLU sector on country-specific emission factors and higher IPCC tier approaches

One critical deficiency in the national MRV system is the lack of emission factors reflecting the local conditions in the country, especially for the AFOLU sector. The lack of country-specific emission factors creates uncertainty and implies an insufficient capacity to do fully informed decision-making, as stakeholders do not feel that the data provided necessarily reflects realities on the ground. This leads to reluctance to establish concrete sectoral climate change strategies and make concrete decisions on implementation mechanisms.

This activity will provide capacity-building in IPCC methodologies to the AFOLU sectoral working group staff, in order to enhance their technical capacity to move to higher IPCC tier approaches, and establish country-specific emission factors for Mauritania in the AFOLU sector. The training will focus on supporting activity data collection and processing in the AFOLU sector by facilitating access to the latest satellite data of land use and land-use mappings. The experience in piloting the higher tier methodology in the AFOLU sector will provide the necessary capacities for national staff to share the experience with the other sectoral working groups with the aim at replicating the exercise in the other sectors over time without CBIT technical support.

The activity will enable Mauritania to efficiently enhance and precise its activity data and emission factors, starting with the most relevant sectors. This improved understanding will also facilitate information-based policy planning and decision-making in designing appropriate mitigation measures.

Activity 2.3: Train ministries staff and other relevant stakeholders on MRV of GHG emissions in the AFOLU, Energy, Transport, Waste and Industry sectors

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, refresher training programmes on advanced topics in GHG inventory will be organized at regular periods. 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, especially through 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 (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 & Vulnerability 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 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. Creation and operationalization of a sharing network through centralization of information and data collection from the relevant stakeholders;
- ii. Improvement of processes for the compilation of each sector' statistics, facts, figures and data;
- iii. Introduction of verification processes of NDC outcomes to be responsive to a high-level standard of data quality.

Activity 3.1: Establish a functional and centralized climate data sharing network and share it with ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders at the national scale

There are many institutions that collect and publish data on their individual data platforms, which are usually stand-alone and at different stages of development or complexity. Moreover, some of such data platforms are online whereas others are offline. This output will focus on developing a centralized climate data sharing network that seeks to bring the individual stand-alone data platforms into a single one-stop data center for NDC priority sectors, thus allowing for improved data access and information management. Hence, the individual data platforms will be connected into a single data sharing network, which will be a central data repository.

Activity 3.2: Develop templates and guidelines and disseminate them to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders for MRV in the five selected NDC sectors

The activity will be dedicated to developing tools and templates as well as functional structures to assist frequent NDC sectoral reporting, SDG contribution, gender indicators and climate finance where relevant, in order 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 sectors in conducting a regular assessment to determine 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 sectors: 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; stocking and evaluation are also 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 neighboring 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, organization, uploading, storage and archiving.

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 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.

Activity 3.4: Test and pilot 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 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 testing will last for six months, 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 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 & Vulnerability and support needed and received.

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 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 to the other sectors.

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

This activity seeks 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, refresher training programmes on advanced topics in policy impact assessment, methodologies for tracking NDC etc. will be organized at regular periods. In the event that new international MRV guidance 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, especially through the CBIT Global 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 - ALIGNEMENT 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 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 its first BUR and the corresponding technical analysis, complying with the 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 national development, in order to set up a functional and robust MRV system for climate change, allowing for reporting on a continuous basis, responding to the MPGs for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The GEF requested funding will focus on strengthening the existing ambitious climate report program to support the following actions and transparency processes under the Paris Agreement:

- i. Planning and reporting NC regularly;
- ii. Planning and submitting NDCs regularly,
- iii. Tracking progress of implementation and effectiveness of climate actions, and
- iv. Tracking the progress of achievement of NDC goals to be reported through Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR).

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 NC and BUR. The quality of data, analysis and reporting will be greatly improved through CBIT support. In addition, the upcoming MPG requirements to be implemented by end 2024 the latest pose a new challenge for Mauritania. The CBIT support will enhance the needed capacities to compile the necessary data and information, and set up the permanent structure to enable BTR reporting on a continuous basis.

As the national teams are expected to improve their skills and capacities in applying the recommended MPGs and needed methods to respond to the MPG requirements through CBIT support, Mauritania will be able to provide accurate, consistent and internationally comparable data on GHG emissions, tracking progress towards achieving its NDC, adaptation actions, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, by submitting BTRs on a regular basis, and thus informing the global stock take under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement. 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 signatories. 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 Transparency Initiative (GEF / C.50 / 07). The activities of this project are within the scope of the programming instructions. 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 management costs of US\$ 161,450 in support project operations in form of staff (45 project Sectoral Focal Points in the Ministries

and Regional delegates in the Wilayas and some of CCPNCC personnel who are all civil servants working partially for the project) and office facilities, equipment and communications for the duration of the project (36 months).

6 - GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEFTF) AND/OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF);

The project is associated with global benefits through capacity development mainly in the areas of GHG inventories and emission reductions. In the absence of this project, the barriers identified and described in the baseline scenario will remain, 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 scenario, the production of inaccurate, obsolete, and inconsistent information will hinder Mauritania from meeting its 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 in assessing the implementation of its climate policies and actions, its ability to adjust its strategies and implementation plans in case of a missing monitoring and evaluation structure that can identify if the intended progress is not 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. 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 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 will be set during the project development phase, following the scale of 1-10 for Indicator 3 and 1-4 for indicator 5.

The indicator for qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency related activities, as defined in the GEF CBIT programming directions document (Annex IV)^[29] will be used to assess the achievement of Outcome 1.

The current indicator description which best describes the Article 13 related institutional capacities is among several others 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 (BAWA) of interdisciplinary independent specialists that includes academicians and retired professional experts, whom the MEDD may assign through an MoU with clear mandate to coordinate transparency activities.

The expected indicator improvement achieved through CBIT support, by improving 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".

7 - INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SCALING UP

Mauritania has been actively pursuing to develop and operationalize an MRV system that will be integrated into the existing national development Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) superstructure rather than setting up new layer 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 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 ingredients 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 able to "monitor":

- 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 the development of 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. 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 NC, BURs, and NDCs on a regular basis with less need for 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 sector, an assessment will be carried out to determine the system's performance in these selected sectors, specifically the performance of the institutional set up, and IT and knowledge management set up. The CCPNCC does not currently have sufficient human, financial and material resources to carry out its mission properly. Through Activity 1.2 and 1.3, formal institutional

arrangements and legal framework, including modalities and procedures for MRV, will be established, ensuring the internalisation of MRV for climate change 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. 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 other sectors as the ones initially piloted, as described in activity 2.2. In addition, the CCPNCC will retain the work arrangement established with other line Ministries, as well as 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 CCPNCC, but additional external expertise might be required, in which case Mauritania will look for potential additional sources of support through other initiatives, such as ICAT, the Global Support Programme and the Central and North Africa Regional MRV Networks.

The CCPNCC, 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 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, CCPNCC will ensure the coordination of CBIT project deliverables with that of preparation of Mauritania's NC4 and BUR2 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 its 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] <https://ccpncc.org>

^[2] SEPANE stands in French for monitoring and evaluation of the national action plan for environment.

^[3] MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15 2017

^[4] These two ministries (MA and ME) are again twinned on 31 October 2018 into a single ministry called the Ministry of Rural Development (MDR)

^[5] MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017; and 3rd National Communication

^[6] National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development; MDA/ICA: Facilitative Sharing of Views. May 15, 2017; and 3rd National Communication

^[7] 3rd National Communication

^[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.



2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

N/A

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

Stakeholders were consulted during project identification to get their views in defining the scope of CBIT activities in Mauritania, to validate their expected roles during project preparation, and to ensure ownership and their and engagement throughout the implementation of CBIT activities.

A first informal ‘conclave’ took place at early stage identification, on 13 January 2018, with the CCPNCC focal points, with representatives from:

- Ministry of Petroleum, Energy and Mining (MPEMi);
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MET);
- Ministry of Economy and Industry (MEI);
- Ministry of Finances – PFS/MF ;Ministry of Higher Education (MES);
- Ministry of Interior and Decentralization (MIDEC);
- Ministry of Habitat, Urbanism, Landscaping (MHUAT);
- Ministry of Health (MS);
- Ministry of Hydraulic and Sanitation (MHA);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEC);
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD);
- Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and Civil Society;
- Ministry of Rural Development (MDR);
- Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy (MPEMa);
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism (MICAT);
- Ministry of Social Affairs Children & Women;
- Ministry of Basic education and reform of National Education;
- Ministry of Employment, Youth and Sports;
- The National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM).

At the occasion, the current status of and description of ongoing MRV activities were discussed, and the objective of CBIT was presented.

A second conclave took place on 19 September 2019 after the official collaboration between CCPNCC and UNEP DTU Partnership had been established to provide support on PIF development.

In addition to the governmental representatives listed above, the following stakeholders have participated in the 2nd conclave:

- Civil Society Organizations and NGOs:
 - o Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and Civil Society;
 - o Directorate of Civil Society;
 - o Naforé (local environmental protection NGO);
 - o GAFFES (local NGO specialized in sustainable environmental management).

- Private sector representative (employer's union):
 - o National Union of Mauritanian Patronage (UNPM).
- Academia and Research institutions:
 - o Assria University of Nouakchott;
 - o Ecole Normale Supérieur (ENS);
 - o Institut Supérieur des Études Technologiques (ISET);
- Non-state development partners:
 - o Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
 - o United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - o World Food Programme (WFP);
 - o German development agency (GIZ);
 - o International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The key objective of CBIT activities, and the identification of potential organizations and relevant stakeholders were discussed. The CCPNCC Coordinator, which is also the UNFCCC National Focal Point, explained in his opening statement why this instrument is of capital importance to the Convention and to serve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Consequently, he explained why Mauritania needs:

- (i) to list the institutions and stakeholders that should be involved and early informed; namely the CCPNCC sectorial focal point of the following institutions:
 - a. NGOs and civil society organizations
 - b. Private sector entities and other non-state actors
 - c. Academia and Research institutions
 - d. Development Partners who will be involved once the document is finalized.
- (ii) to expose the mechanism through the three following key expected outputs:
 - a. Output 1. National institutions strengthened to coordinate, manage and implement climate transparency activities

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

c. Output 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.

Stakeholders were consulted to get their views in defining the scope of CBIT activities in Mauritania, to validate their expected roles during project preparation, and to ensure ownership and their engagement throughout the implementation of the CBIT project.

Table 1 lists the outcome of the consultations with national stakeholders relevant for climate change, their respective function, overall role related to climate change, and how they will be engaged throughout project preparation and implementation.

Different line ministries will be engaged at various stages of the project depending on their expected roles in the CBIT project. The following presents the four broad functions of the ministries in the CBIT project:

1. Climate change strategic institutions;
2. Planning, budgeting and coordination institutions;
3. Climate change implementation and coordination institutions;
4. Monitoring and reporting institutions.

TABLE 1: LIST OF INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ROLES IN THE CBIT PROJECT

Function	Institutions	Project preparation and implementation engagement	Overall role related to climate change
Climate change Strategic institutions	Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Project Management and Coordination	To provide overall policy guidance and determine strategic directions on how to integrate climate change into broad national development framework. Ensure inter-ministry coordination on climate change issues and facilitate financial and technical resource mobilization to support the implementation of climate change activities, as well as provide political authority to mobilize efforts at the sectoral level to combat climate change.
	National Meteorology Agency (NMA)	Provides climate data and scientific advice	
Climate budgeting and finances institutions	Ministry of Economy and Finances (MEF)	Provides inputs on gaps and needs related to the monitoring of support needed and received	This institution is responsible for the overall economic development, planning, coordination, monitoring, and budgeting. The SCAPP (Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy) is the main planning instrument, issued by the MEF.

Climate change implementation and coordination institutions	MEDD National Meteorology Agency	Provide inputs to the improvement of the national MRV system's institutional structure and formalizing data sharing and information procedures	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; Source and utilize funding for the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities; Strengthen financial mechanisms for sustainable implementation; Prepare a common Mauritanian position in relation to the on-going negotiations under the UNFCCC. 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; 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.
	Ministry of Transport and Equipment (MET)		
	Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and Mines (MPEMi)		
	Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation (MHA)		
	Ministry of Rural Development (MDR)		
	Ministry of Housing, Urban and Spatial Planning (MHUAT)		
	Ministry of Higher Education and Research		
	Statistical Agency		
Monitoring and reporting Institutions	CCPNCC (MEDD)	Provide inputs on specific needs and gaps for MRV of climate related activities, and technical support needed to enhance the capacities of national staff	Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national development policies and programmes.
	Strategies Branch (MEF)		
	National Monitoring Committee of SCAPP		

	CCPNCC (MEDD)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national climate change policy; · International reporting and review; § National GHG Inventory; § National Communications; § Biennial Update Reports; § International Consultation and Analysis.
Information, communication and influence between the political and the social sphere	NGOs and civil society organizations: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and Civil Society, Directorate of Civil Society, Naforé, GAFFES.	Consulted on needs for monitoring and communicating of 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.
Implementation of mitigation and adaptation activities on the ground	Private sector entities and other non-state actors: 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 sector actions.
Research, analysis and creation of new knowledge	Academia and Research institutions: Université de Nouakchott Assria, Ecole Normale supérieure (ENS), l'Institut Supérieur des Études Technologiques (ISET)	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.	Academic and research institutions are central institutions that can gather additional data and provide new knowledge, analysis and insight.
Technical and financial support	Development Partners: FAO, UNDP, WFP, GIZ, IUCN	Consulted in order to assist in identifying approaches to track support needed and received	Provide support related to transparency, which should be tracked and reported under the ETF.

These stakeholders will be engaged to solicit their input on the scope/coverage and relevance of the project component, and the strategies that will be adopted during project implementation as well as their commitment to participate in the project during implementation phase. Summary of the views, comments and suggestion on the project design and the implementation strategies will be reflected in the final project document.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. 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 will be developed during the PPG design phase.

More specifically, this project will organize a gender workshop on a topic that will be agreed upon during the Project Preparation stage. This could be training on how the government has supported building women's and men's resilience, or how women and men have been engaged to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, etc. Institutions to be consulted on gender engagement will include, but not be limited to: Ministries in charge of gender, the gender focal point for the convention on climate change, civil society organizations as well as research institutions and development partners working in the fields of gender and climate change.

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.

¹¹ 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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Will the project’s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The private sector plays a crucial role for climate policies to be implemented into activities on the ground, whether it is the implementation of rural electrification through decentralized renewable energy technologies, improvement of rural water access through solar pumping stations, or regulation of age of imported vehicles, or tax exemption from 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, 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 precise GHG inventories, e.g. in the case of livestock, farmers and herders have to be consulted to make accurate accounting 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 will be consulted and integrated into the national MRV system, as described in Table 1, to ensure that detailed activity data from these sources is reported. 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.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

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

- 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 skill sets.

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

TABLE 2: PROJECT RISKS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

Risk	Level of Risk	Commentary and Mitigating Strategies and Actions
Insufficient institutional coordination	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Fully integrate the CBIT project steering committee into the existing climate change implementation committee; § Expand the representation of sectors involved in transparency activities to include all sector stakeholders described in the CBIT proposal; § Establish a channel for regular briefing between the board of director of CCPNCC and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD); § Ensure clear linkages of NDC implementation in line ministries.
Insufficient high –level political will and commitment	Medium	<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.
Data availability and accessibility constraints	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § As much as possible, take advantage of the existing national data collection infrastructure; § Include publicly-available and industrial data providers in the technical working group to facilitate data access; § Establish legal or less formal collaboration arrangements with institutions that are repositories of data; § Revise data collection templates specifically designed for different data providers, § Organize training for industrial data providers under the existing environmental reporting mechanism, § Expand the participation of data providers to cover new areas in the new MRV task, § Support continuous data generation and sharing through the centralized climate data sharing network.
Limited sustainability of project impact, due to reliance on external experts	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Identify and harness existing capacities and skill sets in order to increase participation of all national experts, § Where consultants are to be recruited, they will be paired with local experts to facilitate knowledge transfer, § As much as possible, include experts from national academic/research institutions, CSO and businesses.
Inertia on institutional buy-in	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Build on workable existing institutional arrangements for the GHG inventory, § Involve additional line ministries at the project outset, § Revise existing memorandums of understanding to reflect an updated and more efficient institutional framework § Design specific buy-in strategies for different stakeholders (i.e. line ministries, industrial operators, businesses and NGOs). § Establish and strengthen inter-ministerial working groups/committees

COVID-19 Pandemic slows down project implementation	Medium	<p>The COVID-19 Pandemic will limit or prohibit travel for some time.</p> <p>During the project preparation phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § conduct stakeholders consultations and baseline assessments remotely via survey, email and video calls to inform the design of the project; <p>During project implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § focus on the desk-based work of developing training packages at start-up in preparation for training events; § if necessary, and if travel remains restricted longer than expected, the project will develop materials for and conduct some meetings and training virtually; and § undertake desk research and conference interview where needed and appropriate.
Climate change impacts	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § 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. § This will be further assessed during the PPG phase.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

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. Ongoing BUR2 activities 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 CCPNCC climate change team will be in charge and coordinate CBIT activities and Mauritania's BUR2 preparation.

The CCPNCC will be the Project Executing Agency at the national level, and through its project management unit will coordinate the activities to be implemented in the sectoral technical working groups (GTSCC) through the sectoral focal points (GTNCC), thus making use of a structure already established under previous initiatives, (as presented in Figure 1) , so as to ensure cost-effectiveness and avoid duplication of efforts. The structure for implementation and coordination of CBIT activities is illustrated in Figure 3 below. As such, the CCPNCC and its staff, headed by its Chargé de Mission, in collaboration with other administrative support staff of the MEDD will coordinate with the other Ministries through the PFSCCs – focal points in each sector which are responsible for their GTSCCs. The PFSCCs will report on the implementation of activities in their GTSCCs to the CCPNCC. on the outcome of relevant activities, such as the creation of legal frameworks and institutionalisation of MRV procedures, will happen at the level of the National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD), which is the entity that decides on policies, strategies and work programs as well as on implementation, in consultation with the Technical Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (CTEDD) and the Regional Committees for Environment and

Sustainable Development (CREDD). The CCPNCC will therefore also have to coordinate work at multiple levels, both political and technical, ensuring that these different lines of activities are properly facilitated, monitored and evaluated.

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 Global Coordination platform project, which is a 2-year GEF-funded project jointly managed by UNEP and UNDP.

In addition, during the project preparation stage, specific strategies will be 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 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.

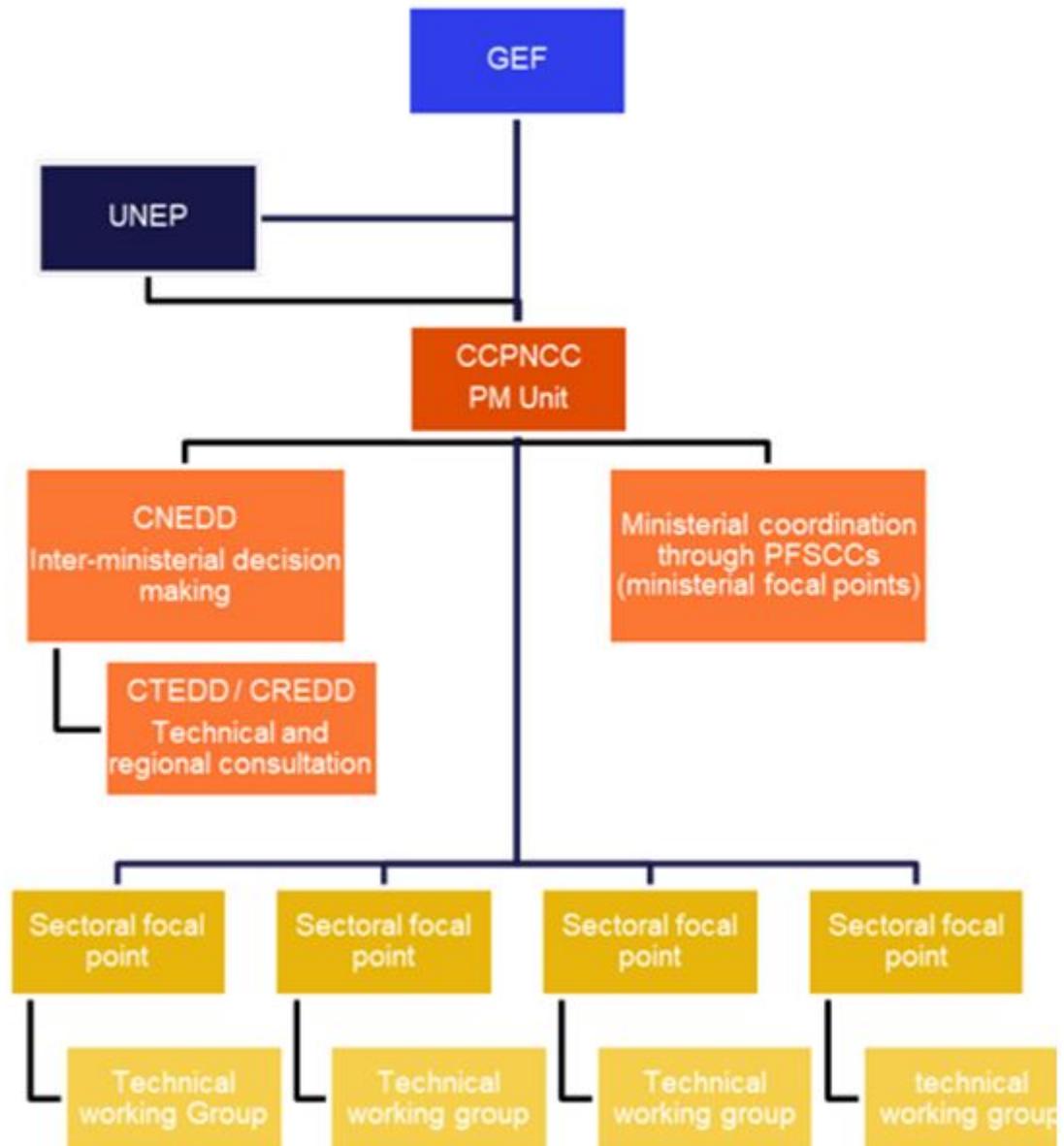


Figure 3: Structure of CBIT Coordination

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

§ National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC	yes
§ National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD	yes
§ ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury	yes
§ Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention	yes
§ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD	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
§ accelerated growth and shared prosperity strategy (SCAPP)	yes
§ National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC	yes
§ Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC	yes
§ Others	

In addition to responding directly to the priorities and barriers described earlier, extracted by the NCs, NDC, BUR and ICA process, the project components are aligned to 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 follows:

National strategies, plans or reports, assessments	Linkages & provision of baseline information to the CBIT project
National Portfolio Formulation Document (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 currently focusing on the preparation of NC4 (approved), and the project "Continental Wetlands Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change" (Concept approved).
Mauritania's NDC	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Mitigation sectors: Energy, Transport, AFOLU, Waste, Industry; · 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. 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.
National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA)	The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) from 2004, elaborated with GEF support, defines adaptation priority activities in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Livestock sector ●Forestry sector ●Agriculture ●Water sector ●Arid and semi-arid ecosystems ●Marine and coastal ecosystems The NAPA provides information on the climate change vulnerability and shall be used to identify adaptation activities to MRV.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	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.
NAMAs	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.
Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (GEF)	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 CCPNCC. The Fourth National Communication is expected to be finalized in 2019 and BUR2 is commencing and thus will be prepared in the same period as the CBIT project. The CBIT proposal is aimed at solving several challenges faced during the preparation and report of national GHG emission inventories, such as data quality management, improved use of the 2006 IPCC methodology, institutional arrangement, etc.

National strategies, plans or reports, assessments	Linkages & provision of baseline information to the CBIT project
TNA	With support from the GEF, Mauritania has prepared two Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) reports to the UNFCCC. The first TNA addressed 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 and 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.
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper	The PRSP from 2013 provides some information on the country's vulnerability to climate change, and stresses the need for improved national capacities for monitoring climate change.
Growth and shared prosperity strategy-SCAPP	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.
The Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (CPDD) 2018-2022	The project is aligned with the Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development, especially with regard to 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.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Results from the project will be carefully documented and disseminated within and beyond the project intervention through existing information sharing networks (Sectoral focal points "SFP") and forums, including the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. At this stage of the CBIT proposal design, although it is clear that strategies for knowledge management will be an important part of CBIT project in order to ensure widespread impact, what is not clear is the specific detail on the specific strategies that will be adopted to facilitate knowledge management from the start to the end of the project. Therefore, during the project design stage, description of specific strategies on the following aspects will be provided in the project document:

- i. how to collect, collate and document results and new ideas;
- ii. how the results and new ideas emerging from the project will be processed and packaged into a useful knowledge product for dissemination;
- iii. methods and tools that will be adopted for effective knowledge and experience sharing of best practices, lessons and challenges emerging from the implementation of the project

In addition, the project will define how this information shall be shared and updated on the global coordination platform. Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of Mauritania's CBIT project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF

CEO Endorsement/Approval

MTR

TE

Low

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Not applicable.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

Title

Submitted

CBIT Mauritania_ESERN_2020.08.26

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Mohamed-Yahya Lafdal Chah, Ph.D	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	9/30/2019

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes 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.

