

Preparation of India's Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4) to the UNFCCC and strengthening institutional and analytical capacities on climate change.

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10493

Countries

India

Project Name

Preparation of India's Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4) to the UNFCCC and strengthening institutional and analytical capacities on climate change.

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

12/3/2021

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Satoshi Yoshida

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

EA

Non-Expedited Enabling Activity req (PIF)
Non-Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Project description summary

Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: Comment cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: The structure is mostly the same as in PIF while some components are added (while the PIF also included such outputs) and outputs are elaborated as described

in the document. Please see the comments in Part II for clarification on details, including the submission of TNC.

In terms of co-financing allocation on Table B, please increase the amount for PMCs so that the proportionality with the GEF funding will be met as per the GEF guidelines.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

Noted, PMC co-financing has been adjusted

(Reference: Table B CEO ER)

Co-financing

Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified [and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?]

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 18, 2022: We note the below response. Comment cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: There is in-kind co-financing from the government while the amount has decreased from the PIF. Please explain the reason and the details on how the project will achieve the same project objective/outcomes. Please also see the comment above regarding co-financing on PMCs.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

The co-financing has been primarily reduced from component 1 (National Circumstances) and component 2 (GHG inventory). The Government of India feels that through the synergy with the CBIT project (also GEF funded), India's enhanced capacity will increase the efficiency of the delivery of activities under the two components and therefore will not require in kind contribution to an extent as was highlighted in the PIF of the 4NC+4BUR.

GEF Resource Availability

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes with FA set-aside.

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes with STAR allocation.

Agency Response

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes, and the linkages among CBIT project and BTR are explained in the ProDoc.

Agency Response

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: Comments cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: The section should focus on the previous enabling activities and remaining challenges that the project will address building on such previous activities.

In this regard, please clarify when the TNC will be submitted (before March 1?) since the submission is necessary for supporting the 4NC, as indicated in the PIF review sheet.

Please move "Description of the changes in the project design" to "B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES" section, and remove or modify descriptions on "global environmental issues" which cover the vulnerability side only as opposed to the mitigation side.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

1. With the recent no-cost extension to the 3NC project, the 3NC report will be submitted to UNFCCC between April-May 2022. The starting date of the 4NC+4BUR project has been accordingly adjusted to July 2022 in the CEO endorsement document.

(Reference: CEO ER Part I, p. 1)

2. "Description of the changes in the project design" has been moved to section B. ENABLING ACTIVITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES.

(Reference: CEO ER Part II Section A / Section B)

The "global environmental issues" section has been modified with additional information on mitigation actions.

(Reference: CEO ER Part II Section A)

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: Comments cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: We note the narrative descriptions under Section C as well as the linkages with CBIT and BTR1 in the ProDoc. They are well documented as in the PIF. Please see the below points.

Transition to BTR1 and the linkage with BUR4: It is expected that the contents and information in the two reports would be aligned for streamlining the process and efforts while avoiding duplication since the submission dates of the reports are close. As per the GHG inventories under component 2, please clarify the time series for BUR4 if they are different from the time series of the expected BTR1, and, in this regard, also clarify the application of IPCC 2006 guidelines with 2019 refinement as the output 2.1.1 says "2018 (BUR4). In terms of expected submission date, please explain what reporting arrangement and format are envisaged if the submission date of BUR4 is delayed and becomes almost the same timing with BTR1.

Component 2: Please clarify/indicate the roles and responsibilities of MoEFCC and other relevant stakeholders to be involved in establishment and management of the National Inventory Management System (NIMS).

Component 6: It says BUR4 will be submitted by Dec 2022 and 4NC will be submitted in 2025, which are different from the descriptions in Part I. Please revise.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

1. The submission timelines for the 3 reports are as follows:

- 4BUR submission end of 2023 with GHG inventory year up to 2020

- BTR1 Submission end of 2024 with GHG inventory year up to 2022

- 4NC submission in 2026 with a GHG inventory up to 2024

The Ministry will follow the above submission deadlines strictly and no delay is anticipated. In case of delay, both BUR and BTR will follow its own format as prescribed by UNFCCC.

(Reference: CEO ER p. 56, CEO ER p. 60)

2. Roles of of MoEFCC

- a) Analyse and document the existing Institutional structure under MoEFCC for GHG Inventory being developed under the Third National Communication to UNFCCC.
- b) Identify gaps and potential opportunities for improving the existing Institutional mechanism by considering International best practises.
- c) Develop a sustainable Institutional Structure along with roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders (e.g. Ministries, departments, institutes, organisations, etc) for future inventory development to ensure continuity and integrity of the inventory.
- d) Develop an inventory management plan to ensure the credibility and quality through quality assurance and quality control mechanism of the NIMS.
- e) Develop detailed quality assurance and quality control procedure needed during the Inventory compilation and development process to improve the quality of the inventory over time.

Roles of other Stakeholders (Other Ministries, Civil Societies, Experts)

- a) Prepare a list of support services and Infrastructure needs for NIMS.
- b) Propose the set of skills and human resources required within the NIMS.
- c) identify and document the methodologies, data sources, datasets including activity data and emission factors (as per latest IPCC guidelines and after approval of MoEFCC) that is required for the Inventory preparation for the sectors identified under TNC.

(Reference: CEO ER p. 11-17)

3. The submission dates have been corrected in the CEO ER.

(Reference: CEO ER p. 56)

Stakeholders.

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?
Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: Comments cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: Please clarify if all relevant ministries will be involved and what kind of NGOs are envisaged to be involved.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

All relevant Ministries will be involved. Along with NGOs working on climate adaptation and mitigation, the GHG platform (<http://www.ghgplatform-india.org/>) will be involved in the project. See also Table 4 in the Project Document on function and roles of Ministry stakeholders in the project.

(Reference: ProDoc Table 4)

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes given the context as an EA project.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes. The budget is similar to the indicative number in the PIF.

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: Comment cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: Please briefly explain the linkages with the CBIT project and the BTR1 on top of previous NCs and BURs, and how these different projects and reports complement each other in lowering the overall cost and increasing cost-effectiveness.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

The 4NC project has taken into account the experiences and lessons learned from the two earlier full national communications (INC and SNC) as well as the recommendations of the technical experts during the FSVs of the three BURs. The 4NC has broadened the network of stakeholders, including the researchers, industry, NGOs and the private sector to create a platform for policy interface in key climate change sectors. Moreover, the capacity and infrastructure that will be built through the CBIT project will help in enhancing efficiency and cost effectiveness of both 4NC and the BTR projects. For example, the capacity building outcome of the CBIT project on GHG inventory will also support in finding the gaps of the GHG inventory to be elaborated and riding the tier ladder under the BTR, 4NC and 4BUR project. The National Institutional Coordination System (NICS) to be developed under CBIT will support data collection and synthesis at one point enhancing cost efficiency. A table detailing out linkages between the three projects is provided in Annex B of the CEO Endorsement Request.

(Reference: CEO ER: Annex B)

Cost Ranges

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request The cost is the same as PIF and the funding from the set-aside is within the cost range

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Following the FSP process, the PIF was endorsed by the OFP letter.

Agency Response

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)

GEF Secretariat Comment

March 21, 2022: We note the below responses in Annex of CER document.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

	GEF Sec Comments	Response
1	Roles of the Implementing Agency in execution need to be clearly defined, if any.	The role has been defined clear Institutional Arrangement and Coordination
2	We note as well that in order for this project to be endorsed, India must have submitted its TNC and BUR 3 to the UNFCCC.	India has already submitted the TNC and BUR 3 to the UNFCCC, finalizing the TNC for submission.
3	We expect that by CEO endorsement, additional information on stakeholder engagement in particular of NGOs and local stakeholders, to be provided, as well as or the gender analysis and action plan.	Stakeholder engagement has been carried out as part of this document and the UNDP Project Preparation Document prepared and enclosed with UNDP

Dec 14, 2021: Please include a table contains responses to the comments by GEFSEC (at PIF) and the Council (Canada, Germany and Japan) on the portal document.

Agency Response

Response to Comment: Dec 14, 2021

Please see Annex A in the CEO Endorsement Request.

(Reference: CEO ER: Annex A)

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 21, 2022: We note the below responses in Annex of CER document.

Council Member Comments

Canada, Germany and Japan approve the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Climate Change, India. Preparation of India's Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4) to the UNFCCC and Strengthening Institutional and Analytical Capacities on Climate Change.; GEF Project Financing: \$4,566,000; Agency: UNDP; GEF ID: 10493.

|

COMMENTS	RESPONSES
 CANADA 	

Canada would appreciate more details on how the current funding model will ensure parties have appropriate and timely access to support while applying for, developing, and publishing these reports, given the uncertainty of timelines involved. We would also like to raise our concerns surrounding the initial implications that this project involves duplicative funding/work, and given these concerns, we would appreciate greater clarity and further details on how exactly the transition to the new report would unfold. We look forward to discussing this project in more detail in future consultations with the GEF

India submitted to the UNFCCC the third BUR on 20 February 2021 with the latest GHG inventory year being 2016 and not fulfilling the reporting provision that "the GHG inventory shall cover, at a minimum, the inventory for the calendar year no more than four years prior to the date of the submission, or more recent years if information is available" (Decision 2/CP.17 para. 41(g)). Once the funding is approved under this project, India will elaborate the Fourth BUR and submit it by the end 2023 (which means that latest GHG inventory year would be 2019 so this funding will be used to update the third BUR including 3 years of the GHG inventory during 2022-2023). Building on the fourth BUR and under a different GEF funded enabling activity, India will develop the first BTR under the ETF to be submitted in 2024 (which means that latest GHG inventory year would be 2022 as, according to MPGs (Decision 18/CMA.1), the latest reporting year shall be no more than two years prior to the submission of its national inventory report or three years flexibility is chosen; and the national inventory report will have to be updated according to the latest outcomes at COP26). This first BTR project will be implemented during 2023-2025. In parallel (2024-2026) and under this GEF funding, the Fourth NC will be elaborated to be submitted in 2026 (with latest GHG inventory year 2023 and all the additional information included in NCs compared to BURs/BTRs to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC). The Ministry will follow the above submission deadlines strictly and no delay is anticipated. In case of delay, both BUR and BTR will follow its own format as prescribed by UNFCCC. See pages 60 and 61 of this CEO document.

GERMANY

<p>For project component 1, Germany welcomes the detailing of information under national circumstances. Germany suggests that information on measures towards sustainable development and poverty eradication can also be included in project outputs.</p> <p> </p>	<p>Measures towards sustainable development and poverty eradication have been included under output 1.1.1.</p>
<p>For project component 2, Germany supports the rationale for establishing gender balanced institutional structure. It would be helpful if more clarity could be given on the nature and form of these institutions. Germany welcomes the outputs of component 2 and suggests that efforts towards coherent data collection and assuring quality can also be an additional output under this section</p> <p> </p>	<p>A comprehensive and in-depth Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan for India, including a discussion of climate-related findings and gender activities, is provided in Annex 10 of the accompanying UNDP Project Document and summarized in pages 20-23 of this CEO Document. The gender action plan addresses coherent data collection and quality-assured data in all components and outputs.</p> <p> </p>
<p>For project component 3, Germany welcomes the outputs of component 3 and suggests the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt the 2013 revised guidelines for formulation of GHG inventory. - Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of MoEFCC and other relevant stakeholders to be involved in establishment and management of the National Inventory Management System (NIMS). - Provide details of the pilot platform already launched for collecting data from industries particularly Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) along with steps for widening the coverage and bringing all sectors under the ambit of NIMS. <p> </p>	<p>There are not 2013 revised guidelines for formulation of GHG inventory but the 2013 Wetlands Supplement to be used by all Parties on a voluntary basis and when relevant. If Germany refers to the 2019 Refinement, it is included under component 2.</p> <p>The current institutional framework including roles and responsibilities are presented in the baseline scenario (pages 11-18). NIMS has been presented in page 18 of this CEO document and a platform to collect data from industries, especially medium-small and micro enterprises, has been developed for the IPPU sector and is currently included in NIMS.</p> <p> </p>
<p>For project component 4, Germany welcomes the outputs of component 4 and suggests monitoring of adaptation actions as an additional component. This should include development of sector wise indicators for adaptation monitoring</p> <p> </p>	<p>Monitoring of adaptation actions including the development of sector wise indicators for adaptation monitoring, tools, guidelines and capacity building are included under the CBIT project. The current project is about preparing the reports to be submitted to the UNFCCC and the reports will build on the outcomes from the CBIT project presenting the information on adaptation collected and monitored through the tools and guidance developed under the CBIT project.</p> <p> </p>

<p>For project component 5, Germany welcomes the outputs of component 5 and suggests the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide clarity regarding how common modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPG) as per Article 13 of the Paris Agreement will be adopted for the transparency of climate action and support with flexibility considering the national circumstances. - Develop sector-wise indicators for measuring progress on national actions to reduce GHG emissions. - Include reporting of emission reductions achieved due to domestic mitigation actions like Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT), Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) Mechanism, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other voluntary carbon market mechanisms as part of the NIMS. 	<p>How common modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPG) as per Article 13 of the Paris Agreement will be adopted for the transparency of climate action and support with flexibility considering the national circumstances and the development of tools, guidance and capacity building to develop sector-wise indicators for measuring progress on national actions to reduce GHG emissions are included under the CBIT project in place. The current project and the additional BTR project are about preparing the reports to be submitted to the UNFCCC and the reports will build on the outcomes from the CBIT project presenting the information on NDC and mitigation actions collected and monitored through the tools and guidance developed under the CBIT project.</p> <p>Emission reductions achieved due to domestic mitigation actions like Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT), Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) Mechanism, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other voluntary carbon market mechanisms are systematically included in the chapter on mitigation actions and their effects of the National Communications and Biennial Update Reports prepared by India.</p>
<p>For project component 6 Germany suggests that a mechanism for sharing best practices with developing countries from global south would be helpful.</p>	<p>Mechanisms for sharing best practices with developing countries from global south are included under output 7.2.1.</p>

In project engagement and specified roles of project stakeholders it is mentioned that the MOEFCC will be better equipped to provide information for the chapters related to National Communication, GHG emissions from LULUCF and Forestry. Germany suggests that some clarification on how MoEFCC would be equipped for reporting requirements would be relevant.

The CBIT project outcomes will allow the nodal ministry (MoEFCC) be better equipped to lead, plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies, strategies, and programmes to enhance transparency, including communications with states and expert agencies in an effective manner, bringing all stakeholders together through a web-based National Institutional Coordination System (NICS) to enhance efficiency and transparency with climate reporting and allowing state focal points submitting information through NICS. The 4NC/BUR4 project will complement the CBIT project and will build on its outcomes and outputs and vice versa. The workplans and activities of the two projects will be closely coordinated to enhance synergies and avoid overlap although the nature of the activities of both projects is completely different: while CBIT project will develop the NICS with standard procedures and technical guidance documents and implement capacity building, the 4NC/4BUR project will elaborate better quality reports to be submitted to the UNFCCC based on the capacity and tools developed under the CBIT project.

We would also advise the GEF to seek synergies and exchange with the following projects of Indo-German Development Cooperation:

- On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project Climate Adaptation & Financing in Rural India (CAFRI) is being implemented with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as the nodal ministry. Germany recommends seeking an exchange on its approach for climate change adaptation implementation and monitoring.
- On behalf of the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, (BMU) the project Supporting the Institutionalisation of Capacities on Climate Change Studies and Actions (ICCC) is being implemented with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) as the nodal ministry. Germany recommends seeking an exchange on its approach for capacity building on climate change mitigation and adaptation issues.

This project will include all climate change related outcomes and outputs of all multilateral and bilateral initiatives implemented or ongoing (Page 60 of this CEO Document).

JAPAN

On project 10493 (*Preparation of India's Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR4) to the UNFCCC and strengthening institutional and analytical capacities on climate change*): We would like to have some clarity on whether this type of support will be duplicative or not, with the subsequent need to file a Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) by 2024, and would like to seek the Secretariat to consider the timing/ effectiveness/ efficiency of projects of this nature.

India submitted to the UNFCCC the third BUR on 20 February 2021 with the latest GHG inventory year being 2016 and not fulfilling the reporting provision that "the GHG inventory shall cover, at a minimum, the inventory for the calendar year no more than four years prior to the date of the submission, or more recent years if information is available" (Decision 2/CP.17 para. 41(g)). Once the funding is approved under this project, India will elaborate the Fourth BUR and submit it by the end 2023 (which means that latest GHG inventory year would be 2019 so this funding will be used to update the third BUR including 3 years of the GHG inventory during 2022-2023). Building on the fourth BUR and under a different GEF funded enabling activity, India will develop the first BTR under the ETF to be submitted in 2024 (which means that latest GHG inventory year would be 2022 as, according to MPGs (Decision 18/CMA.1), the latest reporting year shall be no more than two years prior to the submission of its national inventory report or three years flexibility is chosen; and the national inventory report will have to be updated according to the latest outcomes at COP26). This first BTR project will be implemented during 2023-2025. In parallel (2024-2026) and under this GEF funding, the Fourth NC will be elaborated to be submitted in 2026 (with latest GHG inventory year 2023 and all the additional information included in NCs compared to BURs/BTRs to meet the objectives of the UNFCCC). The Ministry will follow the above submission deadlines strictly and no delay is anticipated. In case of delay, both BUR and BTR will follow its own format as prescribed by UNFCCC. This project will include all climate change related outcomes and outputs of all other multilateral and bilateral initiatives implemented or ongoing in the country. See pages 60 and 61 of this CEO document.

Please see the comment above.

Agency Response
STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
March 21, 2022: Previous comments cleared.

Dec 14, 2021: Please address comments above.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	12/14/2021	3/18/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/21/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations