



## Building The Bahamas capacity in transparency for climate change mitigation and adaptation

### Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**

10427

**Project Type**

MSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

CBIT

NGI

**Project Title**

Building The Bahamas capacity in transparency for climate change mitigation and adaptation

**Countries**

Bahamas

**Agency(ies)**

UNEP

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

**Executing Partner Type**

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Bahamas Environment, Science & Technology (BEST) Commission

**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, Private Sector, Civil Society, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 2

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

36 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

128,649

**Submission Date**

10/29/2019

**A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements**

<b>Programming Directions</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
CCM-3-8	GET	1,354,200	338,333
	<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>1,354,200</b>	<b>338,333</b>

## B. Indicative Project description summary

### Project Objective

Building the capacity of The Bahamas to meet the reporting requirements of the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Strengthening The Bahamas' enabling environment and capacity for implementing the Paris Agreement	Technical Assistance	The Bahamas establishes a transparency framework through which it meets reporting requirements in accordance with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	1.1 Institutional arrangements established and strengthened to coordinate and manage transparency activities in the Bahamas	GET	188,825	40,000
-	Technical Assistance	-	1.2 Technical support, training and tools are provided to the Bahamas, enabling it to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate GHG inventories	GET	309,925	60,000
-	Technical Assistance	-	1.3. Technical support, training and tools are provided to the Bahamas, enabling it to track its NDC implementation in a transparent manner	GET	443,225	126,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
-	Technical Assistance	-	1.4. Technical support, training and tools are provided to the Bahamas which enables them to incorporate climate analysis into decision-making	GET	289,125	64,000
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>1,231,100</b>	<b>290,000</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
				GET	123,100	48,333
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>					<b>123,100</b>	<b>48,333</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>					<b>1,354,200</b>	<b>338,333</b>

**C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Government	Ministry of The Environment & Housing	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	138,333
Government	Ministry of Works	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
Government	Water & Sewage Corp.	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>338,333</b>

**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**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Bahamas	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,354,200	128,649	1,482,849
<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>					<b>1,354,200</b>	<b>128,649</b>	<b>1,482,849</b>

**E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required

**PPG Amount (\$)**

50,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

4,750

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

## 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)
<b>Female</b>	50			
<b>Male</b>	50			
<b>Total</b>	100	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

There are 13 different national institutions listed as stakeholders in the project. Training activities are planned in four different activities: 2.4 Related to the Greenhouse Gases inventory 3.5 Related to data necessary for Nationally Determined Contributions tracking 4.2 Related to the input of data into models for scenario building 4.3 Related to use of scenario building and projects for decision-making. There will at least be two training sessions for each activity. Each training session will have around twenty participants. While there will be some overlap between activities, it is plausible that there will be at least 12 new individuals trained for each session. For example, while the activities on GHG inventory targets mainly public stakeholders, the trainings under 4.2 and 4.3 include private stakeholders as well, and a wider array of public actors. This conservatively amounts to around 100 people trained through the project, , whereof 50% will be women.

## **Part II. Project Justification**

### **1a. Project Description**

#### **Introduction: country background and context**

##### The Bahamas and Climate Change

The Bahamas is a small island developing state that suffers from the constraints experienced by several of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Many disadvantages derive from its small size. These disadvantages include a limited range of resources, which requires extreme specialization, as well as an excessive dependence on international trade. The latter causes vulnerability to global developments. Furthermore, the high population density increases the pressure on already limited resources, causes overuse of resources and premature depletion. There is also relatively small watersheds and threatened supplies of freshwater. The Bahamas also assumes costly public administration and infrastructure, including transportation and communication. There are limited institutional capacities and domestic markets that are too small to provide significant economies of scale. These constraints are magnified by the fact that many island States are not only small but are also made up of several small islands.

The Bahamas is also a low lying, coastal nation, and is therefore highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The climate of The Bahamas is sub-tropical with relatively high mean temperatures and moderate rainfall. Hurricanes are regular occurrences in The Bahamas during the Atlantic hurricane season (June 1 to November 30), and they occur most frequently in August to November. The 2016 and 2017 Atlantic hurricane seasons proved particularly devastating for the country, with Hurricane Joaquin in 2016, and Hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017, which caused significant damage on several islands. In 2019, Hurricane Dorian caused unprecedented damage to the Bahamas, with many casualties and property damages up to US\$ 3.4 billion.

Stakeholders consistently emphasized concern regarding the high vulnerability of The Bahamas to climate change, and its potential effects. These impacts include increased temperatures, sea-level rise, increased storm surges, has implications on freshwater resources and biological diversity, ocean acidification and increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes. The ability of the public treasury to absorb the costs of these impacts and adapt was already being exceeded, and concern was expressed that the country should further integrate climate change adaptation into development planning and consider plans to migrate the population. It was generally agreed that there was a lack of urgency in the international discussions on climate change, and further resources should be committed to this process.

### Environmental Management and Policies

The Bahamas has several pieces of legislation that address natural resources management and environmental protection. Among these are the Bahamas National Trust Act (Chapter 391) 1959, Water and Sewerage Act (Chapter 196) 1976, Environmental Health Services Act (Chapter 232) 1987, Forestry Act 2010, and The Bahamas Protected Areas Fund Act 2014. The National Policy for the Adaptation to Climate Change (2008) is the country's leading policy framework in the context of climate change. The policy recognizes the country's vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, and in particular to sea level rise, as well as its limited human and economic resources to address these impacts. The policy, therefore, focuses on adaptation and stresses the importance of biodiversity and the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The country is also a party to various international multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including the three "Rio Conventions" - the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Bahamas ratified the UNFCCC in 1994 and have also ratified the subsequent Kyoto Protocol in 1999, and the Paris Agreement in 2016.

### Research, public education and outreach

Further investment in public education and outreach on environmental matters need to be made, with new investment in science, technology and education. A general communications strategy for environmental issues was recommended, as well as further strengthening of public participation in development decisions, and rules regarding EIAs and access to environmental information. The lack of access to and development of national data, particularly disaggregated data, was a consistent concern of stakeholders. Several recommendations were made, including increased education for sustainable development, a new focus on a green economy, and the development of targets for monitoring and implementation of sustainable development.

#### **a. The Global Environment and/or Adaptation Problems, Root Causes and Barriers that Need to be Addressed**

In 2019 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) released the Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere. It established that a 2.6 to 4.8-degree Celsius increase in global average temperature by the end of the century, as well as precipitation fluctuations, frequent extreme weather events and sea-level rise of between 0.26 and 0.55 m above the 2005 level in 2100, sets global temperature on a path for a 2°C increase scenario<sup>[1]</sup>. Due to past emissions, even if GHG emissions are brought to complete cessation

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today, the world is already locked into substantial irreversible future changes in the Earth geography<sup>[2]</sup><sup>2</sup>. Mitigation remains a priority. However, as climate change is already happening and is irreversible, we have no choice but to adapt to the climate-related challenges that are leading to economic disruption.

As per the Paris Agreement, ratifying countries will aim to keep warming well below 2°C, and for the first time to pursue efforts to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C. Article 13 of the Paris Agreement provides for an enhanced transparency framework aiming to build mutual trust and confidence and to promote effective implementation of the actions identified under the NDCs, that is, the framework for transparency of actions. Article 13 provides a clear understanding of climate change action in light of the Convention's objectives. It includes built-in flexibility, which takes into account the Parties' different capacities, and builds on collective experience, clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving NDCs. The tool includes good practices, priorities, needs and gaps. This is further reinforced through Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, which highlights that, in communicating their NDCs, all Parties shall provide information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding per decision 1/CP.21. Further, Article 4 requests for a full, exhaustive, comparative and robust account of the measures and action. The progressions and achievements made determining that each country, except for least developed countries, shall report no less frequently than on a biennial basis their progress towards the implementation of their NDCs.

#### Progress to date and remaining gaps

The Bahamas is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change<sup>[3]</sup><sup>3</sup> and its impacts, due to the geology (limestone at or near mean sea level) of the country, its location (within the hurricane belt), and its water resources (freshwater, floating on seawater). Additionally, The Bahamas' dependence on fossil fuels, a service-based economy, and lack of natural resources and limited adaptive capacity, further emphasizes the country's vulnerability to climate change and climate variability. Data has been collected on temperatures which show a consistent rise over the past 100 years. However, more local data on potential impacts, including on sea-level rise, needs to be collected.

For The Bahamas, as for many other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), climate change and climate variability will predictably lead to catastrophic impacts in the form of:

- (i) rising sea-level (as an archipelago of low-lying islands The Bahamas is particularly vulnerable);
- (ii) loss of biodiversity (inland ecosystems, migration of fish stocks, ocean acidification affecting crustaceans such as lobster, conch and coral reefs);
- (iii) economic loss;

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- (iv) loss of agricultural lands;
- (v) human health impacts such as heat stress, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever and malaria;
- (vi) degraded groundwater supplies;
- (vii) losses and damage to critical infrastructures such as hospitals, airports and hotels which are mainly located in coastal areas and biological resources such as coral reefs.

Currently, there is no direct legislation in force to address climate change issues or the management of greenhouse gases, and policy options to implement the national climate change adaptation policy are limited. Adaptation options are expensive, and the country will need access to adequate, new predictable and stable financing, technology transfer and capacity-building resources to pursue adaptation activities. Although The Bahamas is not a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, there is a need to reduce the drain of foreign reserves that are currently used to acquire imported fossil fuels.

In terms of institutional arrangements to respond to the challenges posed by climate change, The Bahamas has made marked advancements. A National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was established in 1996 to coordinate the fulfilment of The Bahamas' obligations and activities under the UNFCCC. The committee also had to track The Bahamas' responses to the issue of climate change at the national, regional and international levels. To date, the committee constitutes various government agencies, private stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs). It meets at least once per calendar quarter to discuss inter alia the next steps required to implement more ambitious GHG reduction targets. The NCCC functions to guide implementation measures while engendering the support of politicians and policymakers.

Currently, members of the NCCC have:

- Driven major policy mandates, including a recent act, The Environment Planning and Protection Act (2019) passed by The Cabinet that, as a component, seeks to “develop a robust climate change regime that applies adaptation and mitigation technologies to address vulnerabilities” (PART I, Section 2, Subsection ‘(h)’); and to develop National Policy for the Reduction of Emissions from Greenhouse Gases as set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related Protocols” PART III, Section 15, Subsection 3(b).
- Served as the body that reviews national climate change related projects
- Driven major physical climate change mitigation and adaptation projects especially in coastal protection/reinforcement and vegetative sequestration potential

- Driven climate change public education and activities for example the publication of a cartoon book on climate change for Bahamian school children, providing nationally appropriate information on climate change.
- Led the gazettelement of a Cabinet endorsed National Climate Change Policy
- Led in the development of the First and Second National Climate Communications to the UNFCCC. The first was submitted in 2001, and the Second in 2015.
- Led in the development of increased national capacity in sectors related to climate change.
- Driven support for the procurement of climate adaptation modeling tools to the Department of Meteorology
- Served to ensure the nationalization of climate change projects and reports for examples. the NDC, climate educational programs, and climate and gender matters.

The NCCC has the formal mandate and responsibility to prepare climate mitigation and adaptation reporting to the UNFCCC. However, with the increased reporting requirements driven by the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), the NCCCs capacity to do so needs to be strengthened.

#### **b. Baseline Scenario and Associated Baseline Projects**

Accelerating action to adapt to and mitigate the consequences of climate change is critical. The Bahamas has set an ambitious GHG mitigation target through its NDC. It is taking the need to reduce GHGs extremely seriously despite conflicting economically attractive opportunities of local coal and lignite availability and flourishing tourist industry. The Bahamas has a relatively pristine environment which is under threat from climate change, and The Bahamas NDC also include adaptation actions. Building resilience through adaptation is a primary objective for The Bahamas. The Bahamas needs to build adaptation into its national sectoral strategies and development practices, and needs to make sure that these fit well with its mitigation strategies and its broader sustainable development goals (SDGs). The Bahamas is focused on delivering adequate mitigation and adaptation actions. However, the country has yet to put the systems in place to monitor and report on their progress.

The Bahamas is taking this opportunity to integrate the tracking and management of its mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as climate finance, alongside its sustainable development goals. This work requires engagement with a wide range of different stakeholders and to ensure an adequate level of data quality required by that of the UNFCCC. To do this, The Bahamas needs to establish a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system with reliable data flows and a robust evidence base for stakeholder

engagement. This requires a transparent framework and structures for data exchange and the development of national Methods, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs), which are aligned with the MPGs adopted in Katowice, for the appropriate consideration of climate action across all areas of government, private sector and civil society.

The transparency system will support The Bahamas to ensure that its climate actions complement and avoid conflicts with its sustainable development goals. The Bahamas has limited resources for implementing climate and other SDG actions. Well informed transparent decision making, that maximizes synergies between climate action (SDG 13) and the other SDGs is needed. This is only possible with an MRV system which provides transparent, accurate and complete national data which informs national decision-makers and facilitates international assessments of progress.

Regarding the GHG Inventory, the second national communication (SNC) describes how the national rules governing statistical data made the GHG Inventory compilation process difficult. This was because no institutional framework exists under which agencies are required to provide data. This lack of a clear mandate has prevented institutions from providing the necessary data which would allow The Bahamas to accurately and adequately track its GHG emissions. Thus, this lack of a clear framework has had implications on which type of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approaches could be used. To date, it has not been possible to go beyond a modified Tier 1 approach, i.e. inventories are heavily dependent on default rather country-specific emission factors and assumptions.

The **Second National Communication (SNC)** suggests several actions to improve the inventory process. These are both of a systemic manner, such as reviewing and reforming the frameworks governing data collection and sharing between public institutions. Some are specific, such as a detailed study about the transport sector to determine what type of vehicles are used in the public and private sectors. There is, however, no funding identified and limited technical knowledge for implementing these improvement suggestions.

With assistance from **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, The Bahamas is currently developing its **Third National Communication (TNC)** to the UNFCCC, which includes a national inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and sinks. For the first time, a **Biennial Update Report (BUR)** will be furnished as an additional transparency component. This process will address some of the gaps which are identified in the SNC. The SNC draws on the **National Capacity Needs Self-Assessment (NCSA)** report from 2005 which states that the "current levels of government funding are insufficient to adequately support the implementation of four international environmental conventions", which includes the UNFCCC. This leads to government institutions having to prioritize among their different responsibilities, choosing not to perform some to deliver on essential tasks. The SNC further describes the lacking capacity of the staff, which exacerbates the issue. Moreover, the preparation of international reporting uses international consultants who come in to write the reports; their capacity is not integrated into the government.

Moreover, the approval process to participate in international training workshops is a rigorous and lengthy process which renders it difficult for many to participate in trainings. The SNC reiterates the conclusion of the 2005 National Environmental Management and Action Plan (NEMAP) that additional stable financial resources need to be made available for training. This underscores the need to establish a national capacity-building system.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework brings new challenges as The Bahamas is expected to report on the progress of its NDC as well. A system to tackle this has not been conceived in The Bahamas. The system would need to identify the indicators required to report on, and the methods to collect the data. It will also need to clarify the ways to report and communicate. While it is true that The Bahamas, as a SIDS, enjoys flexibility under the ETF, The Bahamas intends to build its capacity to report to the best extent possible.

The SNC highlighted the systemic needs of data disaggregation and transparency, while The Bahamas CBIT project aims to address these needs systematically. This includes the different components countries can report on under the ETF - the GHG Inventory, the NDC progress, and support provided/received, and also projections and scenarios for both mitigation and adaptation. Regarding the NDC tracking, support provided/received and also generation of projections and scenario building, the current technical capacity is lacking, and specific tools for The Bahamas are missing. Thus, output 3 and 4 below will address these gaps.

The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission, through the NCCC, will oversee key efforts of the CBIT Climate Change Coordination Unit (CBIT-CCCU); bearing in mind that the CBIT-CCCU will be a subset of the NCCC. The NCCC will ensure that the efforts of the CBIT-CCCU are consistent with both international and national climate change objectives. The NCCC is more long-term (and has been extant since 1996) whereas the more target-specific unit, the CBIT-CCCU, will function more specifically under the life of the CBIT project and sometime shortly after. The NCCC consists of members from both non-technical and technical backgrounds. In contrast, the CBIT-CCC will consist of members with backgrounds that are associated with the outputs of the CBIT project deliverables. The project described in the next section will be coordinated with the results and findings of completed and ongoing projects as per the following table.

Project name	Description and relevance to the CBIT project	Time frame and funding (USD)	Key stakeholders
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	<p>A Public Education and Outreach Subcommittee of the NCCC was established in 2010 and has been active in education and outreach activities on climate change. The Subcommittee produced a comic book on climate change for Bahamian school children, providing nationally appropriate information on climate change.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> This project is a capacity-building project that is facilitating early education of climate change in curricula and supports the “learning by doing” initiative. It builds the capacity of the school system to raise awareness of climate change, and it is these lessons learnt which the CBIT project will draw on.</p>		
<p>“Caribbean Planning for the Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC)”</p>	<p>A regional project that seeks to build capacity in the Caribbean region for the adaptation to climate change impacts, particularly sea-level rise through the completion of vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning, and capacity building activities.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> The project established sea level and climate monitoring systems throughout the region. It is also assisted with the establishment of the National Implementation Coordinating Unit (NICUs), the National Climate Change Committee.</p>	<p>1997–2001, US\$5.6 m</p>	<p>GEF, World Bank, Organization of American States (OAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago</p>

<p>Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCCC</p>	<p>A global project to support 25 countries to prepare their national communication and Biennial Update Reports to the UNFCC.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> This project is highly relevant as it will prepare the Third National Communication and the first BUR of The Bahamas. The project is currently under implementation and will thus provide an up-to-date assessment of the current institutional arrangements, methodologies, capacity gaps and needs. This knowledge will be used both in the development of the CEO Endorsement document, provided the analysis is available, and through the implementation of the project.</p>	<p>2017-2019, US\$15.3m</p>	<p>GEF, UNEP, BEST. Countries included are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Burundi, Chad; Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mauritania, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan &amp; Zimbabwe</p>
<p>National Cooling Strategy</p>	<p>First draft of a strategy to address energy efficiency, ozone depletion and GHG reduction. The Strategy calls for a ban on high emission cooling systems.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> The strategy proposes the introduction of innovative, interactive, and comprehensive tracking tools at The Bahamas Customs Department for tracking the import of global warming potential (GWP) gases. It facilitates ways to make it easier for stakeholders and decision-makers to understand ozone-depleting and GWP gases data.</p>	<p>2019</p>	<p>GEF, Various Ministries</p>

<p>Pine Island Project</p>	<p>In the Pine Island Project, the Government allocated 283,750.2 hectares of forest for the development of a Forestry Estate in which three classes of forest have been created. Conservation Forest (52.65% of the total hectares), Protected Forests (13.33%), and Forest Reserves (34.02%). With assistance from UNEP and the GEF, these undertakings, among several others, support the conservation of biological resources (under the Convention on Biological Diversity), the prevention of desertification, land degradation and drought (under the Convention to Combat Desertification), the sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources, and the goals of the UNFCCC on the preservation of forests as carbon sinks for Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR). A Forestry Unit was established in 2010 by an Act of Parliament, and this unit will be monitoring forest outputs beyond the project.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> Development of a Forestry Estate to permanently protect national forests to increase carbon dioxide absorption capacity (or Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)) and to improve national climate forcing to advance The Bahamas NDC</p>	<p>2015-2019</p>	<p>GEF, UNEP</p>
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Water supply systems	<p>A Partnership with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to co-finance a project to improve access, reliability and quality of the water supply systems in communities in New Providence and six Family (peripheral) Islands that have had limited access to potable water. The project has included new water-supply and water-distribution systems. In the mitigation and adaptation risk component, it puts special emphasis on placing the facilities at locations where vulnerability to water supply constraints during climate-related events and natural disasters are considerably reduced. The Production and Distribution facilities seek to be powered by traditional and renewal energy sources.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> Leverages the opportunity for the integration of sustainable development goals and climate resiliency in the water sector.</p>	2016-2020, \$41m	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool Project	<p>Participation in training in the use of an online risk assessment and management tool- Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL) whose purpose is intended to engender climate resilience into Caribbean countries' daily decision-making processes for Policy &amp; Legislation Framework, Land Use Planning and Land Development.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT project:</b> Supports Institutional arrangements and governance structures to help play an important role in ensuring climate resilience screening of national policies, legislation and development projects (Output 1, and 4)</p>	2015-2018, \$10m	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC), Multiple Government Ministries and Agencies
The Economics of Climate Adaptation & Ecosystem Based Services in San Salvador, Bahamas	<p>In partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), engaged in a pilot project to determine costs of climate change, strategy and action for one of the Family (outer) Islands called San Salvador (Bahamas). The project assessed the economic impact of climate change in San Salvador (Bahamas) and designed and prioritize measures to minimize their effects on tourism development. The results of the project were reinforced with workshops intended for local training.</p>	2017-Current	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Factor-Ideas for Change; Institute De Hidraulica (IH) Ambiental – University of Cantabria

<p>Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas</p>	<p>In partnership with The Bahamas National Trust, The Department of Agriculture, The Department of Marine Resources, and The Nature Conservancy, this GEF project seeks to Develop more effective management of Marine Protected Areas and to integrate the management plan into landscape planning. The project aims to reduce pressures on ecosystem services and biodiversity for competing resources. This project has been monitored by the BEST Commission and will continue to be monitored by the Commission.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT Project:</b></p> <p>This GEF Project seeks to ensure 2,105,539 tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq emissions are reduced in the Exuman Cays Land and Seas Park, Andros West Side National Park and Bonefish Pond National Park. The project will produce up to 5 carbon-neutral Marine Protected Area facilities (photovoltaic substitute for diesel generators), subsequently reducing tCO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1,502,769.6 tCO<sub>2</sub> over several years and will introduce fees to help sustain the design.</p>	<p>2016-2020, \$21m</p>	<p>GEF, Multiple Government Ministries and Agencies, The Nature Conservancy</p>
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<p>Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (CCMRVH)</p>	<p>The Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (CCMRVH) assists the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean region to efficiently develop GHG inventories, mitigation projections, and track their NDCs. This initiative will pool experts from participating countries to establish regional MRV institutional arrangements and products. By doing so, it will aim to carry out a needs assessment, develop the institutional arrangements, produce transparent MRV and mitigation outputs and strengthen the capacity building.</p> <p><b>Relevance to this CBIT Project</b></p> <p>the MRV Hub was set to empower English-speaking countries in the region to efficiently develop GHG inventories, mitigation assessments, and track NDCs. This goes hand in hand with the transparency goals of this CBIT to strengthen The Bahamas' environment and capacity for implementing the Paris Agreement. However, the CCMRVH exact support to The Bahamas has not yet been defined. The BEST Commission, who coordinates the CCMRVH support as well, has the intention to use the CCMRVH support to complement the CBIT work. Thus, the CCMRVH support will accommodate to the CBIT project. It can be added that both UNEP and UNEP - Technical University of Denmark (DTU) Partnership are close partners to the CCMRVH project as well, thus further strengthening the coordination of the project. UNEP sits on the Steering Committee of the project, for example. Moreover, it is important to note that CCMRVH's support will be limited, as it is €3m for 12 countries.</p>	<p>2018-2023, €3m</p>	<p>International Climate Initiative (IKI), Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago</p>
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**c. The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

Component. Strengthening The Bahamas' enabling environment and capacity for implementing the Paris Agreement

**Outcome.** Strengthening of The Bahamas’ transparency framework as described in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

The current (limiting) behavior that will be addressed to support realization of the outcome	Desired transformation of behavior
The current institutional arrangements for different aspects of the transparency system are not in place, which leaves the reporting effort uncoordinated.	The project will expand the mandate for the BEST Commission by establishing the necessary institutional arrangements for NDC tracking (both mitigation and adaptation) and support received. The roles and responsibilities will be clarified. This will allow for a coordinated effort in reporting to the UNFCCC.
The collection of data is insufficient for the GHG inventory and hardly existent for NDC tracking. Data and tools for support provided/received is also lacking. The staff lacks the training and tools to collect data, and processes are not standardized.	Outputs 2 and 3 will establish the procedures, guidelines and tools to standardize the collection of data for the GHG Inventory, NDC tracking and support provided/received. The trainings will build the capacity of the staff to use these products, thus generating a flow of climate data.
The current decision making in The Bahamas is based on the limited information described above. Moreover, the ability for scenario building and projections is limited, which hampers the possibility to use this in decision making.	Actors are trained to input data into scenarios and projections, and to use these for their decision making. This includes both public and private actors, thus increasing the ability of The Bahamas as a whole to address climate change issues.

This project will create a CBIT climate change coordination unit, the Climate Change Coordination Unit (CBIT-CCCU) which will implement the project. It will support the NCCC which has the responsibility for transparency reporting components such as data collection, data formatting (as recommended by the UNFCCC), data analyses and data presentation.

The project will expand the necessary legal mandate for the NCCC, under the auspice of the BEST Commission, to also shoulder the additional reporting responsibilities. The project will develop the required institutional arrangements to ensure the data flow for the new areas. The project will also develop the methodologies, guidelines, and procedures for the unit to improve inventory reporting and establish NDC reporting. These will be aligned with the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) adopted in Conference of Parties (COP) 24 in 2018. The project will also establish mechanisms to use the information generated by these systems for actors in both the private and public sectors. These systems will allow The Bahamas to compile more complete reports to the UNFCCC - both the GHG inventories as part of the National Communications, and for the coming Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs). The tools and systems also enable The Bahamas to monitor the development of climate and other types of data. Moreover, the project will build the capacity of The Bahamas to use the information to create climate projections and scenarios and incorporate this into both public and private decision-making processes.

The CBIT project in The Bahamas will be implemented by a core team, creating the CBIT-CCCU, consisting of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), a senior officer specialized in transparency and climate change matters, and two junior officers. This core team will perform key tasks in each activity under each output below. However, when external support is needed to complete a specific activity, this will be sourced outside the core team. The terms of reference for these different tasks will be developed in the CEO Endorsement document. In the description of the activities below, this is indicated.

**Output 1.** Institutional arrangements established and strengthened to coordinate and manage transparency activities in The Bahamas

This output will strengthen the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) role in coordinating and implementing transparency activities in The Bahamas. The NCCC will collect and compile data from all the relevant ministries for both the GHG emission inventory and NDC reporting needs, as well as support received. This output will define, develop, and propose the necessary institutional arrangements for all processes. This output will also establish the NCCC as the storage center for climate data and ensure that it will be resilient to weather risks such as hurricanes. Moreover, it will acquire the necessary software to create a knowledge platform where the public can access the climate data and the reports produced by the committee.

The SNC describes how in the preparation of the second GHG inventory, national rules and regulations governing public statistics made it impossible to access this data. This meant that while data existed for a number of areas, it was not possible to disaggregate it and thus have a more accurate GHG inventory. This output will address this barrier through the formal institutional arrangements, which include data-sharing agreements.

This output will be realized through the following suggested activities:

- 1.1 Strengthen the NCCC with the capacity and mandate to coordinate and implement transparency activities, including the analysis of current gaps and issues.
- 1.2 Establish the NCCC as the storage center of the climate data, including the procurement of the necessary hard- and software.
- 1.3 Draft and propose for adoption formal institutional arrangements and legal framework to collect and manage GHG Inventory data
- 1.4 Draft and recommend for adoption institutional arrangements and a legal framework to collect and manage data for NDC tracking (on climate action, support received and vulnerability and adaptation)
- 1.5 Analyze and identify financial sources, including the national public budget, to ensure that the NCCC can be sustainably and sufficiently staffed for transparency purposes.

This output will be realized through the core team working, but with additional funds for the procurement of hardware and software for activity 1.2. In addition, for activity 1.3 and 1.4, it is predicted that the support of external legal consultants is needed to develop the necessary draft documents.

The activities under this output are aligned with activities from the CBIT Programming Directions related to strengthening national institutions (a).

**Output 2.** Technical support, training and tools are provided to The Bahamas, enabling it to submit transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate GHG inventories.

The Bahamas latest GHG Inventory is included in its SNC. The SNC also includes several suggestions for improvements. It is these suggestions which this output addresses intending to improve the GHG inventory process.

The SNC suggests the establishment of a national system for data collection and storage, as well as the "*continuous capacity building to assist with the performance of future inventories and the establishment of memoranda of understanding between climate change committee and various statistical databases for retrieval of inventory data*" (p.77).

This output responds to these suggestions by establishing the institutional arrangements for the inventory process and national capacity building mechanisms.

The latest GHG Inventory, included in the SNC, was calculated with the IPCC 1996 Revised Guidelines. As the Katowice MPGs demand that the National Inventory Reports (NIR) from 2024 and onwards are calculated with the 2006 IPCC guidelines, it is necessary for The Bahamas to transition to these. The different activities under this output will facilitate this.

In general, the improvement of the inventory system will require the capacity building of staff within line ministries responsible for the collection of activity data. Activity 2.4 will establish the capacity building system for the inventory system. The CBIT project will engage with a local technical or educational institution to develop it as the center for capacity building for the inventory process. The institution will provide training to both public and private actors. It will also do it under output 3 for NDC tracking as well as for

output 4 for the integration of climate data into decision making. Capacity building will be carried out for relevant ministry personnel, academia and other public servants on transparency guidelines, developed methodologies and the efficient use of tools for data collection and delivery. National training workshops will be conducted to improve public servants' knowledge and understanding of the transparency guidelines for developing GHG estimates for key sectors, including understanding IPCC guidelines, data management issues and reviewing legal arrangements for long-term data sharing. The training will focus on, inter alia, substantive measures to avoid data duplication, a concern expressed by the joint 50th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA50) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI50) in June 2019, Bonn, Germany. Participants can then ensure that these activities are integrated into their work programme to facilitate the inventory process and support successive NDCs.

The Bahamas is made up of more than seven hundred smaller islands, with more than thirty inhabited ones. To assure that all of these territories are represented in the elaboration of a transparency framework, the costs of these workshops must account for the considerable travel expenses that must be incurred if equal representation and participation are assured. Thus, part of the budget for this output will be directed towards the extensive inclusion of all Bahamians.

The establishment of the capacity-building system includes the development of capacity building material, such as a guidebook on transparency management processes, guidelines, protocols, methodologies and tools. The handbook will serve as reference material for government agencies, private sector, academia and civil society, by providing an overview of good practices in ensuring compliance with Article 13 of Paris Agreement, which requires transparent, effective and accurate reporting.

As an archipelagic nation, the unique circumstances of The Bahamas require work to be conducted on several populated islands within the archipelago. This includes the recruitment of consultants to work on these islands. Some of these islands have their own critical infrastructure, including diesel power generators and reverse osmosis plants. The SNC also lists several specific actions to improve the GHG Inventory process of The Bahamas. Some of the actions (as indicated in pg.77 of the SNC) are:

- Detailed examination of the transport sector of fuel used in various sectors
- Improve data on land use and land-use change as policy-making currently relies on data from the 1970s.

Activity 2.2 will address these needs, and thus improve the conditions for the GHG inventory process. Exactly which actions will be taken will be decided during the CEO Endorsement Document phase, as a further evaluation is required.

This output will be realized through the following activities:

2.1 Develop and test tools and protocols in the GHG inventory elaboration

2.2 Develop a roadmap for enhancing the GHG inventory and enhancing the process for preparing the inventory, prioritized by impact, to inform and catalyse further investments in this area, including measures related to i.e. examining transportation fuel use; improving data on land use and land-use changes; and developing country-specific emission factors for at least one sector.

2.3 Develop and adopt quality assurance and quality control tools

2.4 Establish a capacity-building system through collaborations between the NCCC and a local technical or academic institution to train technical staff on IPCC 2006 guidelines and the tools developed

The core team will be supported by considerable external expertise throughout this output. For activity 2.1 and 2.2, which to a large degree are one-time investments which The Bahamas later will be able to use and adapt, external consultants will be utilized. For activity 2.3, the development of central instruments such as the QA/QC tools and procedures, support from external partners such as the UNEP DTU Partnership is planned. This to ensure that it is developed together with the core team. In this way, it integrates into the knowledge of their core team. For activity 2.4, funds are available for the local educational institution, as well as the external support to develop the courses together with the core team. There are also funds for the workshops under activity 2.4.

The activities under this output are aligned with activities from the CBIT Programming Directions related to providing tools, training and assistance (d, e and f).

**Output 3.** Technical support, training and tools are provided to The Bahamas, enabling it to track its NDC implementation transparently.

This output aims to enhance the national capacity to monitor and report progress in implementing The Bahamas' NDC. The Paris Agreement enhanced transparency framework introduces new reporting requirements for The Bahamas, especially in relation to its NDC. The current NDC of The Bahamas includes both mitigation and adaptation components. For mitigation, the NDC actions are focused on the electricity generation and transport sectors. The goal is a 30% reduction below the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario in 2030, which is an economy-wide reduction. For adaptation, the focus includes actions within the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries; tourism; health and wellbeing; human settlement; and water resources.

In the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR), The Bahamas will have to provide information on the progress of NDC implementation. This output will support the development of the Climate Change Coordination Unit so that it also ensures that the capturing and reporting of NDC data is efficient and science-based. Activities through this output will also support the design and establishment of a functional transparency system to monitor and evaluate (M&E) adaptation measures, monitor, report and verify (MRV) mitigation actions, and monitor support needed and received.

The establishment of these systems to track the NDC implementation will require the elaboration of both tools and templates for data collection, but also protocols and guidelines for how the data collection and sharing will occur. This development of protocols will take place with the participation of relevant organizations, thus helping to establish formal partnerships which should increase the sustainability of the system. The established partnerships will track their contribution to the implementation of the NDC, and National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and have comprehensive GHG emission data, thus facilitating the development of future transparency reports under the Convention. A protocol that defines the obligations of two parties is a proper framework for promoting good mitigation and adaptation practices and transfer of technology and transparency, especially standards of emission accounting for the structures concerned. The developed and adopted protocols will improve the comparability and efficiency of data sharing, ensuring the sustainability of the processes as well as defining and ensuring the regularity of the dissemination of information.

This also requires NDC indicator development for both mitigation and adaptation. The development of NDC indicators, especially in relation to adaptation, are highly dependent on their local surroundings. As described, The Bahamas has a unique feature in being an archipelago which spans a vast area. Moreover, the different islands are distinct in relation to climate, and level of urbanization, and type of eco-systems present. This means that in order to capture the local contexts, the indicators need to be tailored to these contexts. This is resource-intensive, as it needs to be done for all sectors, and validated throughout the country.

The establishment of such a system will require considerable capacity-building of different actors who are to provide information to the system. The need for data and information will depend on the type of indicators developed to monitor the progress, but non-traditional actors will likely be involved. Thus, the training programmes will include also include such actors. Moreover, the training programmes will take a conscious approach to address gender biases and gaps in training. This output will also include activities to foster peer exchange and awareness-raising activities in The Bahamas. These trainings will bring people from all around The Bahamas to assure the extensive reach and success. Due to the already discussed archipelagic nature of The Bahamas, these trainings will also incur extensive travel costs if inclusion and equal representation of the more than thirty inhabited islands is desired. The design and execution of the trainings and the other activities under output 3 will be carried out in coordination with CCMRVH support to ensure complementariness, avoid duplication and build synergies. This coordination will be defined during project development, when the CCMRVH has also developed its activities. At

this stage the CCMRVH has not yet fully determined the nature of its activities and workplan, thus the coordination will be determined during project development. Coordination on national activities will be also facilitated nationally, as BEST is the focal point to the CCMRVH and the lead government entity for this proposed GEF project.

The Bahamas will contribute actively to the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and participate in regional peer-to-peer exchanges. This activity includes continuously identifying relevant aspects of the work of the CBIT project and sharing it on the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Also, inversely, this activity includes identifying the relevant lessons learnt from the information available on the platform and making it applicable for The Bahamas.

This output will be realized through the following suggested activities:

- 3.1 Develop an analysis of current transparency practices and gaps;
- 3.2 Design, test and operationalize a domestic transparency system which includes MRV and M&E components;
- 3.3 Design monitoring indicators for the NDC;
- 3.4 Elaborate tools, templates, protocols and guidelines for NDC and support provided/received tracking;
- 3.5 Develop and deliver trainings to ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders on NDC and support provided/received tracking, using the capacity-building systems established in activity 2.4.
- 3.6 Carry out peer exchanges activities through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and other forums on relevant aspects to the context of The Bahamas.

For activity 3.1 and 3.6, the core team will undertake these tasks. For activity 3.2 - 3.4, external expertise will be used to support the core team with specific tasks. Organizations such as the 'UNEP and the Technical University of Denmark' (UNEP DTU) Partnership will be relied upon for external support under activity 3.2 and 3.3, given the complexity of the tasks, and the need to shorten the learning curve for the core team. For activity 3.4, a consultant, preferably a local entity, will be recruited to realize the trainings. Moreover, there are funds for the workshops as well.

The activities under output 3 are aligned with activities from the CBIT Programming Directions related to providing tools, training and assistance (d, e, h, and i) and assisting with the improvement of transparency over time (j and k).

**Output 4.** Technical support, training and tools provided to The Bahamas to use climate analysis in decision-making.

The outputs above will establish systems which will generate a flow of both climate related information, but also of information related to the NDC indicators. This output will ensure that The Bahamas takes advantage of this information to enhance policy- and decision-making. The output will create mechanisms and capacity to use the information to generate climate projections, baselines and scenarios for different sectors. The capacity to carry out these projections, baselines and scenarios will also be built. The capacity building system which will provide training for the two previous outputs will do so also for these aspects. Actors from both the private and public sector will then be trained to integrate these projections, baselines and scenarios into their analysis and decisions through capacity building. The targeted actors are 'decision-makers' in the broad sense of the word - those taking decisions which affect the development of The Bahamas. This also provides a way to illustrate the value of these systems.

In the same way, as in the two previous outcomes, the coverage and presence of all inhabited islands in The Bahamas is one of the country's top priorities. Thus, these trainings will need to take into account the costs for the extensive travel to and from the different islands to the places where these trainings will take place. Thus, part of the budget will be directed towards this cost.

Furthermore, the MPGs include that each country shall generate and present climate projections for the UNFCCC. While this is subject to the same flexibility mechanism as all the MPGs and is formulated as a shall and not a should, building this capacity will allow The Bahamas to better comply with the ETF. The capacity of baseline development will likely also be necessary for future developments in market mechanisms.

This output will be realized through the following activities:

- 4.1 Elaborate climate projections, and mitigation and adaptation scenarios for The Bahamas;
- 4.2 Train ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders on how to elaborate and provide input to projections and scenarios;
- 4.3 Train ministry staff and other relevant stakeholders on how to integrate climate data and projections into decision-making processes.
- 4.4 Carry out peer exchanges activities through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and other forums on relevant aspects to the context of The Bahamas.

The core team are key to provide direction and prioritization among the different sectors here. Moreover, the core team is essential in the workshops under activities 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. For activity 4.1, an external consultancy will be used to work on the systems to create climate projections and scenarios for The Bahamas.

The activities under output four are aligned with activities from the CBIT Programming Directions related to strengthening national institutions (a, b and c), providing tools, training and assistance (d, e, and h) and assisting with the improvement of transparency over time (j and k).

#### **d. Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies**

This CBIT project is addressing GEF Focal Area Climate Mitigation 3-8 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency”.

The GEF-7 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy aims to support developing countries to make transformational shifts towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways. The CBIT, as per paragraph 85 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, complies with this Focal Area Strategy by:

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

#### **e. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF, LCDF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing**

The CBIT programme is designed to improve mandatory reporting of signatories to the UNFCCC. In this regard, this project is financed on the full agreed cost basis. In the case of this programme, eligible activities have been described in the GEF document "Programming directions for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (GEF/C.50/06)".

The activities of this project are consistent with the scope of the programming directions. Cofinancing is not a necessary requirement for this project. However, there is a foundation of activities that are considered cofinancing and have been considered when estimating in-kind co-finance of USD 338,333 as indicated in table C.

The CBIT request has been designed to address short and medium-term national capacity building needs as highlighted under the implementation of the project to develop Capacity Building Initiatives for Transparency. It will help The Bahamas to provide a more holistic and comprehensive report on its mitigation and adaptation actions, technology transfer, technical support and climate finance flows, especially for the coming BTRs. With the GEF intervention, The Bahamas will have a more improved-coordinated transparency system that will provide a full account of the country's contribution to its NDC and global targets. This includes the GHG inventory, where different aspects of the data will be improved, the NDC tracking for both mitigation and adaptation, as well as climate finance spending. The project will also develop processes which integrate the generated information into decision-making processes, enabling better scenario building and projection of climate effects. The project will use these generated scenarios and projections and build the capacity of both private and public actors to incorporate these into decision-making processes, enabling more informed decisions.

In the absence of this GEF intervention, The Bahamas would have to continue to rely on overseas consultants to undertake its reporting obligations heavily. Institutional coordination will remain a challenge as sector-specific MRV systems are rolled out. The development of an NDC tracking system, especially for the adaptation aspect, would be challenging to develop in time for the first BTR. These, among other challenges, will persist without this much-needed intervention. Moreover, the systematization of data collection, and the establishment of mechanisms to integrate this into decision-making processes, are not established under the type of support offered for meeting the reporting obligations. This is thus another gap which this project closes.

**f. Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF) and/or Adaptation Benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and**

This project will indirectly lead to increased mitigation and adaptation efforts through improved tracking of NDC implementation. This project will increase the quality and availability of climate data for The Bahamas through the systems which are to be established. In addition, the establishment of NDC progress tracking system will allow The Bahamas to see improvements in both mitigation and adaptation efforts as the NDC is being implemented. The capacity building, through the project, will also enable The Bahamas to integrate this information into future decision-making processes. The Bahamas will have better information on how its climate work is contributing to sustainable development. These effects will translate to a higher ambition when presenting the next NDC in 2024, and for the consecutive ones as well.

This project will monitor the main 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.

**g. Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

Innovation

This project improves the existing system for the GHG inventory and establishes a system for NDC progress monitoring which is new for the context of The Bahamas. The capacity-building approach in regard to reporting capacity to the UNFCCC is also an innovation compared to how earlier and current projects have been executed.

The data management systems, which will be designed to be able to withstand hurricane related damages, is also an innovative feature which can benefit not only the climate transparency system, but also serve as a model of how to handle other information systems data management.

Through this approach, the project includes considerable capacity building of both public and private actors. Output 4, which will train them in integrating climate data in their decision-making processes, will generate innovative outcomes beyond the project frame as well. The project will also incorporate relevant, innovative solutions appearing from other CBIT projects through the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Sustainability

As described above, the current system of preparing reports to comply with the UNFCCC requirements is highly dependent on international capacity and financial support. This project will address this by building the capacity in The Bahamas to create the necessary transparency systems. The project includes activities which will create tools and procedures which are 'one-off' investments, but also the quality control and quality assurance systems to maintain and improve them, as well as the capacity-building system to train people in using them. The capacity-building system will ensure that the capacity is retained into the institutions. The developed capacity-building material will also be available. Through the link to the CBIT global project, the project team will be kept up to date with development and requirements of the transparency systems. This thus creates a technical system which is sustainable in the long run.

The financial sustainability is more generally addressed under output 1, where various ways to finance the integral transparency systems will be explored, including private and public finance sources. This will permit the established system to continue to be operational after the end of this project.

More specifically for Output 1. Once the institutional arrangements are established, the government of The Bahamas will explore employing staff to operate it in the long term. As for Output 2., before project end, public and private stakeholders will have already applied for external funding to produce transparent, consistent, comparable, complete and accurate GHG data. As for Output 3., there is increasing interest for most if not all government ministries to access NDC data. These groups will serve as sources of co-finance to ensure project continuity beyond the project close date. As for Output 4., the data generated by the transparency systems will be remitted to the Cabinet to help guide decisions to lead to further reductions in GHG emissions and favoring of sustainable development outcomes. This will further serve to convince the government of the value of these systems and securing their long-term financing.

Wherever possible the project team will seek collaboration with the Caribbean Collaboration MRV Hub, to utilize the resources available to The Bahamas in the most efficient and sustainable way. This will increase the possibility to leverage the available resources to create a sustainable transparency system.

#### Potential for scale-up

There is potential for scale-up of this project within several of the areas the project works in. Within GHG Inventories, the project will not be able to improve all sectors to a higher tier level. Still, the project will establish a way to improve some areas, which then can be adapted and replicated in the other sectors. Moreover, the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement will mean that the NDC of The Bahamas will need to be updated over the years to come. New sectors may be included in a future NDC, there is further potential for scale-up.

Lastly, through this project, The Bahamas will participate in both global and regional knowledge exchange networks such as the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. Here, the experiences of The Bahamas will be shared with a broader audience.

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[1] IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2014.

[2] Solomon et al., 2009. (Irreversible climate change due to CO2 Emissions. Proc. Natl Acad Sci. USA)

[3] For example, see David Wheeler, 'Quantifying Vulnerability to Climate Change: Implications for Adaptation Assistance' Center for Global Development, Working Paper 240, January 2011, at 21 which places The Bahamas as number two in the top 20 countries at risk from sea level rise.

### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is an archipelago of 700 islands and more than 200 cays, islets and rocks in the western Atlantic Ocean (latitude 21° and 27° North and longitude. 72° and 79° W) covering over 100,000 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) or 260,000 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) of ocean. Thirty islands and cays are permanently inhabited.

The total land area is 5,382 mi<sup>2</sup> (13,943 km<sup>2</sup>) stretching from the northwest tip of Grand Bahama Island to the southeast coast of Inagua Island (approx. 550 miles (mi) / 880 kilometers (km)). The Bahamas platform extends from the coast of Florida to the island of Hispaniola (840 miles (1,335 km)). The Project will take place primarily in New Providence but will have several components implemented on surrounding islands.



### **2. Stakeholders**

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

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** No

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:** No

This document has been prepared through extensive consultation with representatives of The Bahamas Environment and Science and Technology Commission. The elaboration of the document has been discussed through virtual meetings and face-to-face meetings in international events. This approach ensured that the views of the Ministries, Departments, Agencies, NGOs, and the Private Sector represented in the National Climate Change Committee under the BEST Commission were considered during the project identification

phase. Also the GEF Operational Focal Point ensures that the project was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points. Moreover, the key documents have been reviewed to develop this concept, such as the National Communications and other key documents which have been developed through a participatory stakeholder approach. Finally, as described below, stakeholder participation is planned for the project preparation phase.

**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.**

During the project preparation phase, a stakeholder consultation workshop will be held where representatives from The Bahamas' civil society and the private sector will be invited to participate. Women participation will be promoted. The workshop will present the project, and ask for inputs, especially on the general direction of the project, and the planned activities. It will also serve to deeply understand the current baseline and challenges of The Bahamas' climate transparency and identify synergies with existing initiatives. These inputs will then be integrated into the project design as a whole, and in the activities in particular.

Description of relevant stakeholders and role in CBIT project

Stakeholders	Role in CBIT Project
The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission	<p>The Commission is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of all climate change related activities in The Bahamas. These include the preparation, compilation, and submission of reports to the UNFCCC. The Commission will coordinate the activities as defined in the project scope, ensure efficient communication among relevant stakeholders, provide technical feedback, baseline information and contribute to project design. The Commission is also responsible for managing the compilation and reporting of the national GHG emissions inventory. Additionally, the Commission has established a National Climate Change Committee to support the government's implementation of provisions under the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan. The Committee comprises representatives from Ministries, Departments, Agencies, NGOs, and the Private Sector. Assist with climate-resilient planning, adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Assist in preparing and disseminating climate change-related information, including climate education.</p> <p>The CBIT-CCCU, the Climate Change Coordination Unit, will be placed under the NCCC, which is placed under the BEST Commission. Thus, it will work closely with BEST, and will also reinforce its capacity. This extra capacity will benefit the coordination capacity, which will benefit the project.</p>

Ministry of the Environment and Housing	<p>Assist with climate-resilient planning, adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Assist in preparing and disseminating climate change-related information on a national level, including climate education.</p> <p>Review and ensure that environmental sustainability measures are incorporated into building plans.</p>
Office of The Attorney General	Assists in the development of Legal Frameworks which integrate climate adaptation and mitigation measures
The Bahamas Power & Light Corporation	National Power Generation Plant and repository for Emissions data
Central Bank of The Bahamas	Historical repository for GHGs
The Bahamas Bureau of Standards and Quality	Assist with the integration of climate policy into national standards.
The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)	<p>Oversight of the management and operation of the facilities</p> <p>Assist in the development of national criteria (standards and protocols) for climate-related emergencies</p> <p>Assist in the dissemination of information for disaster preparedness and awareness.</p> <p>Operation of command center for disaster preparedness, management and response.</p>
Ministry of Public Works	<p>Oversight of building construction</p> <p>Issuance of site plan approvals</p> <p>Assist in the development of national criteria (standards and protocols) for climate adaptation structures such as seawalls.</p> <p>Assess the structural integrity of buildings. Review and ensure that climate resiliency measures are incorporated into building plans.</p>
Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development	Provide demographic information for targeted vulnerable communities inclusive of gender. Facilitate gender involvement in climate mitigation and adaptation planning and projects, evaluation, monitoring and reporting of mitigation and adaptation actions. Assess and communicate the needs of vulnerable groups in targeted communities. Assist in the dissemination of information for climate-related disaster preparedness and awareness and ensure that community needs are included.
Ministry of Health	<p>Develop a strategic plan for medical emergencies that linked to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) and other harmful chemicals, including transfers/evacuation.</p> <p>Communicate with key agencies for medical evacuations and transport.</p>
Department of Statistics	Provides statistics on gender and climate

Ministry of Transport and Local Government	<p>Assist in the dissemination of information for disaster preparedness awareness.</p> <p>Communicate emergency transport options on identified islands.</p> <p>Assist with identifying the needs and resources on targeted islands.</p>
Department of Meteorology	<p>Provision of climate-related data, including past trends and long-term projections.</p> <p>Provision of Sea Level Rise data</p> <p>Assist in the provision of climate change and storm surge models for various islands.</p> <p>Assist in the identification of site selection for long term climate monitoring.</p>
Water & Sewage Corp	Provision of climate related data in regards to water and wastewater treatment. Provider of in-kind co-financing for the project.
<p>Academic institutions</p> <p>University of The Bahamas Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Research Centre (UB-CCARR), Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI), Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI)</p>	A partnership will be established with an academic institution to shoulder the capacity building tasks which are part of outputs 2, 3 and 4.
<p>Civil society organizations:</p> <p>Bahamas National Trust (BNT), Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation (BREEF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Bahamas Country Office</p>	Civil society organizations will provide input during the public consultation process and will be consulted throughout project development and execution. Further civil society organizations relevant to the project will be identified during the preparation phase of the project.
<p>Private sector</p> <p>Bahamas Power and Light Company (BPL), Grand Bahama Power Company (GBP), St. George's Cay Power Company (SGCP), Water &amp; Sewerage Corporation (WSC)</p>	Private sector representatives are essential to consult in the establishment of an integral transparency system as they are key entities to implement many of actions needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These private sector stakeholders will provide GHG emission data and other relevant information. These will be engaged in the project preparation phase, and will also be key actors during project execution. Further specific private sector entities will be identified during the project preparation stage.
CBIT Global Coordination Platform	<p>A platform collecting information from CBIT projects globally. The information on what the CBIT projects entail, and what can be learnt from them, is readily available.</p> <p>The Bahamas will both benefit and contribute to the CBIT Global Coordination Platform through this project. The Bahamas will benefit through the rich information on other CBIT projects, and their lessons learn, which is available. It will contribute by providing information on its own process, the challenges and ways how it overcomes these.</p>

### 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).**

As the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit notes, “Integrating gender into climate change reporting is a particular challenge because many environmental specialists may not be familiar with gender analysis approaches and gender specialists may not have experience in climate change” (UNDP 2015: 53). Thus, this project will attempt to bring the input of as many diverse gender voices as possible. The project will take care to include women in the implementation of the project, from the project board and project management team to consultants, and from training to active participation in consultation workshops. In this sense, project management and monitoring will be gender-sensitive, including gender-disaggregated indicators showing who is involved and whose views are represented. However, not only will women be involved, but the project will also attempt to compile an expert roster of individuals and organizations that can provide expertise on gender issues when needed. These combined measures will assert the place of women as agents of change and climate-action in the island-state.

Gender considerations will be cross-cutting in this project, in terms both of its products and its processes. There will be guarantees that those involved have the capacity to ensure gender equality and equity throughout the project. This goal could be achieved by establishing gender-sensitive measurements and reporting, and/or workshops on the intersections between climate change and gender challenges. Similarly, the project will dissect how women and men participate in climate change-related decision-making differently, and as such, create platforms where local women can express their concerns, knowledge and demands around the issue. This will also create a space for women to report the possible gaps in control over natural resources, as well as solutions that they feel comfortable with. In this way, the project will contribute to women’s equal engagement and benefit from climate change action. Following CBIT Programming Directions and the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and its Gender Equality Action Plan, based on this substantive initial mainstreaming effort, a gender-responsive results-based framework will be developed during the PPG design phase.

The Bahamas will benefit from the Global Coordination Platform activities on gender. Mainly, under its 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. This project will also carry out a gender analysis at the CEO-proposal stage, where the gender disparities will be studied in detail. This analysis will be used to generate linkages between inequalities and socio-economic levels, and it will help ensure that all genders have equitable participation.

In addition, this project will organize a gender workshop on a topic that will be determined during the PPG stage. The topic of the workshop could be training on how women and men have been engaged to adopt climate-smart tourism or fishing practices, etc. Institutions to be consulted on gender engagement will include, but not be limited to: The Ministry in charge of gender (Ministry of Social Services & Urban Development, Department of Social Services), 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 such as the University of The Bahamas. In the end, a document to disseminate gender-relevant best practices and lessons learned throughout the project cycle can be published for other projects in the region and future reference.

**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;** No

**improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or** Yes

**generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.** No

**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.**

Private sector representatives are essential to consult in the establishment of an integral transparency system as they are key entities to implement many of actions needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These private sector stakeholders will provide GHG emission information. This includes both small and large private actors such as companies within industry and tourism. These will be engaged in the project preparation phase, as described above, but are also key actors in a number of the outputs of the project. Private sector stakeholders will be involved in: Output 1 – Institutional arrangements, 2 – GHG inventories, and finally Output 3 on NDC tracking.

Under output 1, "Institutional arrangements established and strengthened to coordinate and manage transparency activities in The Bahamas", it is likely that institutional arrangements need to be made with certain actors within the private sector. This mainly concerns the collection of activity data, which is relevant for output 2 as well. Under output 3, the private sector actors are essential actors for: developing and prioritizing indicators for tracking the NDC and deciding what is feasible in terms of what data one can be collected. Moreover, private sector actors will likely be a key audience for some of the capacity building courses as they are key data providers.

**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)**

Project Risk	Rating	Mitigation Action
Climate Change		

**Hurricanes:** Tropical cyclones have changed in intensity, frequency and even track due to impacts of climate change. Hurricanes Dorian, Irma and Maria have drastically affected the island nation in the last few years. As hurricane season approaches, the effects and fears of the same can affect the attention, progress, interest and success of this project.

In addition, the physical effects of hurricanes can include heavy rains, high winds, a storm surge, and even tornadoes. These can wreak havoc on the society in general, contributing to general changes in priorities. But it can also affect data collecting and storage equipment or procedures, or travel infrastructure hindering capacity building activities.

High

The Bahamas has a well-established Hurricane Preparedness guide in where they detail the necessary measurements and precautions that citizens should take the time of a hurricane. This project will make sure to comply with those measurements in order to assure the safety of the personnel. When activities need to be postponed due to warnings, the safety and integrity of the people will always be a priority, and the project will only return in its course when safety can be mentally and physically assured.

For the data systems generated by the project, and the storage of this data, the project will design resilient systems able to withstand the threats posed by climate change, including hurricanes. This includes storing data on a cloud outside of The Bahamas, ensure to store project documents during the course of the project in shared cloud folders, etc.

For capacity building activities, online options will be preferred when possible to save resources for travel as a default position in the project. This approach helps limit possible adverse effects of a hurricane. For those capacity building activities which need to take place in person, they will be planned outside the hurricane season.

**Institutional**

Difficulty in formalizing long-term agreements between public and private national actors for transparency-related processes and activities regarding GHGs and national reports

High

The creation of a Climate Change Coordination Unit will support the formalization of the long-term agreements. This will facilitate discussion among the key sector entities and will ensure ownership by all entities involved. The unit will also create greater awareness of national transparency activities and create positive feedback loops with key stakeholders on the impact and importance of such agreements. The Unit will work closely with the BEST Commission who have the coordination responsibility between the Ministries.

Lack of inter-institutional coordination and collaboration	High	The project will have an inception workshop to sensitize stakeholders on the need for a harmonized approach to climate transparency reporting. In addition, the establishment of the Climate Change Coordination Unit will be established precisely to address this risk by undertaking the role of the mechanism to improve coordination among key stakeholders in the different national sectors. It will also strengthen the capacity of the BEST Commission, which has coordination responsibility between the Ministries.
Not enough attention is provided to quality assurance or the determination of uncertainties and data gaps	Low	The Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Coordination Unit will specify the need for quality assurance and members will address issues as necessary.
Poor project coordination and limited alignment with national needs and priorities as Administrations change	Low	As best as possible, design coordination mechanisms that would be palatable with any major Administration changes.
<b>Organizational</b>		
Duplication and/or fragmented activities among other development partners	Medium	The project will include workshops and knowledge exchanges with other agencies and development partners to avoid any duplication. The BEST Commission and the Ministry of Environment, both with coordination roles, will support the timely engagement and communication of project outputs with key national stakeholders.
<b>Political</b>		

Lack of political willingness and buy-in from Government/Ministries to ensure the MRV system is given support and prioritization to ensure sustainability	High	<p>Engagement with Government/Ministries throughout the project, highlighting the international importance and the benefits the project will provide in supporting the development and tracking of national mitigation and adaptation actions. This will be achieved through workshops, presentations, media coverage and/or meetings. Component 2 will also target decision-makers for knowledge and awareness. Furthermore, the creation of a Climate Change Coordination Unit will facilitate discussion among the key sector entities and in the process, build the buy-in of such entities. The unit will also create greater awareness on</p> <p>f national transparency activities. It will also create positive feedback loops with key stakeholders on the impact and importance of their activities vis-à-vis those on transparency. The Unit will work closely with the BEST Commission who have the coordination responsibility between the Ministries.</p>
Expert staff turnover within the Ministry due to political changes	Medium	Output 2, 3 and 4 will seek to provide training and capacity building activities to public personnel among agencies as well as the academia to broaden the local expertise. There will thus be a wider pool of expertise to recruit from. The project will also generate knowledge products, guidelines and tools which facilitates training of staff to ensure sustainability.
<b>Gender</b>		
There is a possibility that the number of women involved will be small.	Low	The project encourages equal participation of men and women in developing a transparency system and capacity building activities.

Gender power relations might cause disparity and oversimplification of gender issues and their relation to climate change.	Medium	Although women are meaningfully involved in the climate change decision-making process, gender issues are not well integrated into transparency activities. There is a low level of awareness regarding the relationship between gender issues and climate change issues. Government agencies do not have the individual capacity to analyze the consequences of climate change policies and measures on men and women, and they lack access to materials and specialists who could provide guidance and support. Finally, reporting data and systems may not be disaggregated by gender, which limits the ability of policy-makers to learn from climate change programming
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## 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.**

UNEP will be the GEF implementing agency. The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST) will be the Executing Agency. BEST is also the executing agencies for the Third NC and the First BUR. It is foreseen that a representative from the steering group of the TNC will participate in the Steering Committee of this project to facilitate coordination further.

At the same time, the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute has established a project called the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (CCMRVH) to assist the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean region to efficiently develop GHG inventories, mitigation projections, and track their NDCs (Greenhouse Gas Management Institute n.d.). This initiative will pool experts from participating countries to establish regional MRV institutional arrangements and products.

The CCMRVH exact support to The Bahamas has not yet been defined. The BEST Commission, who coordinate the CCMRVH support as well, will coordinate efforts between the CBIT project and CCMRVH support to ensure that such efforts are complementary and not duplicative, and build synergies. It can be added that both UNEP and UNEP DTU are close partners to the CCMRVH project as well, thus further strengthening the coordination and coherence between the two initiatives. UNEP sits on the Steering Committee of the project. Moreover, it is important to note that CCMRVH's support will be limited, as it is €3m for 12 countries.

## 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 Development Plan (NDP) under IDB – This plan begins to address the natural and build environment and the national adaptations required by the government to combat climate change

§ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD – A Plan to Develop a legal entity responsible for the protection of biological resources, which includes the development for monitoring and evaluation of the resources and threats to the same including climate threats

§ National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC – The Bahamas’ communication to the UNFCCC on The reporting of periodic GHG Inventory and the national contributions to achieve the UNFCCC’s global objective to stabilize GHG concentrations at levels that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The Bahamas submitted two NCs in November 2001 and November 2015, respectively. The second NC gave a detailed analysis of the risks, impacts and vulnerabilities that the nation faces with the changing environmental conditions caused by climate change. It also included the adaptation and mitigation strategies, as well as policies which are being implemented at the moment to counteract the effects of climate change.

§ Biennial Update Report (BUR)/Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under UNFCCC – The Bahamas’ periodic monitoring and verification report which provides biennial updates on GHG inventories and measures to mitigate and facilitate climate change adaptation and to assist in the development of The Bahamas’ National Communication to the UNFCCC.

§ Nationally Determined Contributions under UNFCCC – The Bahama’s action plan towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient future in the context of national priorities, circumstances and capabilities, and includes a base year (reference point), time frame and periods for implementation, planning processes, scope and coverage, and general intent and approach for estimating and accounting for GHG emissions and removals.

§ National Cooling Strategy (NCS) under UNEP – Given High ambient temperatures make cooling systems one of the more desirable and most available resources for climate adaptation for Bahamian citizens, and given many cooling systems imported in The Bahamas have staggeringly low Energy Efficiency Ratings (EERS) and Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratings (SEERS). These imported systems lack local/regional quality controls. The use of inefficient cooling systems results in inter alia increases in GHG emissions. The absence of a national cooling strategy not only promotes the above but encourages cooling manufactures to export subpar cooling systems that may carry harmful refrigerants and Global Warming Potential (GWP) gases. The NCS has Convened stakeholders to draft a national strategy for transitioning to energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling products and has proposed a more robust and integrated MRV System.

§ National Energy Policy (NEP) – A policy that sets a target to achieve a minimum of 30% renewables in the country’s energy mix by 2033. The policy does not include the establishment of an MRV system which can track the progress of this but relies on the establishment of such a system by the CBIT project.

§ Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC – A project that assessed the technological and capacity building needs to address barriers in sustainable development, Appropriate environmental policy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in 2000.

§ National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD – A report which addresses The Bahamas’ national capacity to implement international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAS) such as the UNFCCC and contribute to the national goal of sustainability.

§ National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC – An exercise that monitors the progress of existing GEF projects and recommend new projects that align with national priorities.

## **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.**

The CBIT project in The Bahamas will create knowledge through the Output 2, 3 and 4. Output 2 will improve and develop tools for GHG Inventory compilation, and also train the relevant actors in using these tools and methods. Output 3 will develop indicators for NDC monitoring in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. Activity 3.2 will also develop the tools, protocols and guidelines of how data is supposed to be collected. An essential part of managing this knowledge is through output 1 as it will ensure the

institutionalization of the developed knowledge. This will allow for better information sharing between different institutions in the country, which also can act to reduce the challenges when staff leaves positions, as the counterpart in another institution will maintain part of the knowledge on their side.

The main knowledge management system is however established under output 2 and 3 with the establishment of a national capacity building system in collaboration with a knowledge institute. This will ensure that the knowledge is institutionalized. Through the training-of-trainers approach, and through having both online and onsite training sessions, it builds a robust system which can reach many of the necessary stakeholders in The Bahamas.

This national project will allow The Bahamas to participate in the CBIT Global Coordination Platform providing and receiving inputs. The project proposal will, therefore, define how national CBIT information shall be shared and updated on the global coordination platform. This will be done throughout the project, and for all of the outputs. Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of this Project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives. Sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt is also done in other networks The Bahamas is participating in, for example, CARICOM, SIDS and AOSIS.

### 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.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

**Title**

**Submitted**

<b>CBIT Bahamas_ESERN</b>
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**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).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Date</b>
Rochelle Newbold	Director	Ministry of the Environment and Housing	4/27/2020

**ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates**

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

