

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11651
Project Name:	Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize.
Countr(ies):	Belize
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements	4
C. Key Dates	4
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities	4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities	5
C. Stakeholder Engagement	5
D. Gender Equality	6
E. Knowledge Management	7
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS	7
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	8
V. ANNEX	8

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize.

Country

Belize

GEF ID

11651

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and
Disaster Risk Management

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

8/28/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 1st PIR

Objective

This CBIT project objective is to strengthen the national transparency system in Belize to meet the requirements of the ETF under the Paris Agreement. Through the development of a “Transparency Management System”, it aims to produce high-quality climate information that Belize will use to improve and streamline its climate data management cycle, including planning, data collection, data processing and analysis, information publishing and sharing, data preservation and data reuse. Such climate information will be used for international reporting and serve as an essential input for national decision-making. The Transparency Management System will be strengthened through the establishment of institutional arrangements (expertise, data flows, tools and engagement) focused on delivering high quality outputs for the ETF, as well as in supporting the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation related information into national and sub-national and planning processes and decision making. The project is organized in four Components, each designed to address the three barriers identified above: • Component 1 focuses on enhancing and shaping the Transparency Management System, building on existing strengths and identifying and filling gaps and weaknesses. This will include looking at the government of Belize’s legal frameworks, data flows, expertise and expert capacities, and any necessary systems and tools. This Component will also seek to establish strong and sustainable stakeholder engagement across ministries, sub-national government, private sector and communities and social groups. • Component 2 will enhance the modules of the integrated climate data for complying with the ETF and its MPGs: GHG emissions, adaptation risks and vulnerabilities, NDC tracking, and support needed and received. It will achieve this through outputs that strengthen data flows, databases, tools, templates, and institutional and human capacity for each module. • Component 3 will support national policy- and decision-makers to utilize climate data and projections more effectively into their regulatory and planning processes. It will achieve this by using the tools and capacity developed in Components 1 and 2 and further strengthening the data flows, databases, tools, templates, and institutional and human capacity through practical delivery of new results for assessing the effectiveness of different sectoral policy scenarios for achieving national climate goals. •

Component 4 is focused on the monitoring and evaluation of the project itself. This is geared towards timely and close monitoring of the project progress and expenditure and focused on it meeting the specified outcomes and project results (see Annex C).

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress Moderately Satisfactory	Development Objective Moderately Satisfactory
Overall risk Moderate Risk	
Project Financing 1,642,500.00	Cumulative Disbursement 146,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 8/13/2024	Agency Approval 8/24/2026
Implementation Start 1/27/2026	First Disbursement 9/24/2025
Expected MTR	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 3/31/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

During the reporting period, the project focused on implementing key inception activities and establishing the foundations for effective project delivery. Initial efforts were dedicated to engaging with the National Focal Points and presenting the project documentation, including the project structure, results framework, and workplan. A major milestone was the appointment of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) by the National Project Director (NPD). Under the leadership of the CTA, a project refinement exercise, or “reality check,” was conducted to validate assumptions, review implementation arrangements, and identify priority actions for project startup. This process also supported the revision of Terms of Reference and the establishment of the Project Coordination/Management Unit (PCU/PMU).

The recruitment process for key project personnel, including the Senior Transparency Expert, Technical Administrative Support Specialist, and National Gender Expert, is ongoing. These positions were advertised, applications were evaluated, and candidates selected. At the end of the reporting period, contracting procedures were underway. In parallel, the CTA initiated stakeholder engagement activities aimed at promoting project ownership, fostering collaboration among relevant institutions, and building awareness of the project's objectives and expected results.

A significant achievement during the reporting period was the successful organization of the Project Inception Workshop, held on 27 January 2026, with representatives from 14 organizations participating, including 14 women and 13 men. The workshop introduced the project's purpose, scope, expected outcomes, governance structure, and implementation arrangements, while clarifying roles and responsibilities among stakeholders. Participants demonstrated an improved understanding of the project scope and Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) requirements, and no objections were raised regarding the proposed approach. Participants expressed broad agreement with the proposed activities and endorsed the planned first-year workplan.

Additionally, during the period of report, as part of the efforts led by the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, the Executing Agency for the project, the Climate Change and Carbon Markets Act was passed in June 2026, providing the legal framework for the establishment of the transparency system, whose enhancement is supported by the project.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

During the project start-up phase, implementation experienced delays due to changes in UNEP partnership policies and changes of the process and staff of the Executing Agency (EA). The revised UNEP partnership procedures introduced additional compliance and due diligence requirements that needed to be fulfilled before project funds could be disbursed. To address this challenge, UNEP worked in gathering information from other United Nations agencies to identify and apply the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) assessment process as a means of meeting the new requirements. Completion of these processes enabled the first project disbursement to be made in September 2025.

Following the disbursement, additional time was required to complete the EA's financial and administrative procedures before the funds became available for project implementation. As project funds are received through the national treasury system, a dedicated project account had to be established. These processes coincided with the transition between fiscal years, requiring additional administrative actions associated with the closure of one fiscal year and the commencement of the next. As a result, project resources only became fully accessible in February 2026. Once funding became available, the Executing Agency proceeded with the recruitment of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA), an important step in advancing project implementation.

Additional delays were encountered during the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU). Changes in procurement procedures required the Ministry of Finance to review and revise the Terms of Reference for key project positions, extending the recruitment timeline. Furthermore, the initial recruitment process attracted an insufficient number of qualified applicants, requiring the positions to be re-advertised and the application period to be extended from March to April 2026.

The reporting period also coincided with the rotation of the EA's Financial Officer (FO) and Administrative Officer (AO) responsible for supporting the project. The transition of personnel required a handover period and familiarization with project-specific procedures. In addition, the project account had to be reopened following changes in financial personnel, resulting in the temporary suspension of PMU recruitment processes. To mitigate these challenges, the project CTA maintained regular communication with UNEP, the Ministry of Finance, FO and AO to expedite the completion of financial, administrative, and recruitment

processes. Additionally, bi-weekly meetings were proposed to ensure close coordination among all parties helped to create capacity, resolve outstanding issues and positioned the project in track again.

At the end of the reporting period, the recruitment of the PMU remained on hold. However, a project revision process was initiated to extend the project duration, introduce changes to the logical framework, and adjust procurement arrangements. These adjustments aim to reduce the number of procurement processes and address the challenges arising from the procedural changes introduced by the EA.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

An inception workshop to introduce the project by presenting the purpose, scope and expected outcomes in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The participants (14 women and 13 men from 14 organizations) included representatives from Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management; Ministry of Economic Transformation; Forest Department; Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy and Logistics; SICA; Department of Transport; University of Belize; Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise; National Meteorological Service.

The engagement contributed to clarifying project governance and implementation arrangements by outlining institutional roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms. Discussions helped build a shared understanding of Belize's transparency obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, enhancing stakeholders' knowledge of reporting requirements and their contributions to the national transparency system.

Participants reviewed and validated the initial workplan and first-year activities, providing feedback to strengthen implementation planning and confirming priority next steps. As a result, the workshop improved stakeholder understanding of project objectives and transparency requirements, established greater clarity regarding institutional roles and coordination arrangements, and secured agreement on the implementation roadmap and next steps for the project.

D. Gender Equality

During the inception phase, the project took initial steps to integrate a gender perspective into project implementation. Gender considerations were incorporated into the planning and organization of the inception workshop, as well as into the identification of opportunities to mainstream gender within the first-year workplan and project activities.

To support gender-responsive monitoring and reporting, the project collects sex-disaggregated participation data by including a gender field in participant registration forms and attendance records for all meetings, workshops, consultations, and training events. These records provide a basis for tracking and reporting on gender representation throughout project implementation.

The Inception Workshop, held on 27 January 2026, demonstrated balanced participation, with 14 women and 13 men attending. This level of participation reflects the project's commitment to promoting inclusive stakeholder engagement from the outset.

As the project progresses, additional gender-related activities outlined in the project framework will be implemented. A National Gender Expert is expected to play a key role in ensuring the effective mainstreaming of gender considerations throughout project execution. The appointed expert will be responsible for supporting the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the project's Gender Action Plan,

helping to ensure that gender equality considerations are systematically integrated into project activities, outputs, and outcomes.

E. Knowledge Management

A concept note and presentation were prepared for the inception workshop, introducing the project's purpose, scope, expected outcomes, governance structure, implementation arrangements, and roles and responsibilities. The materials also outlined the project's first-year work plan, including activities under Component 1, planned capacity-building initiatives, and the implementation of a gender-sensitive communication and stakeholder engagement strategy. These resources facilitated stakeholder understanding of the project, its transparency requirements, and implementation approach, and supported the validation of the first-year activities.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	Deliverable 1.1.1 ETF Compliance Strategy was removed from the scope of the MRV consultancy and reassigned to the Senior Transparency Officer. This change was made to enable work on this activity to commence immediately, rather than awaiting the procurement and mobilization of external consultancy support.
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	

others

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Belmopan	17.251011	-88.759020	3,582,678

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	PIR CBIT Belize FY 2026