

# GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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## General Project Information

### Project Title

Climate Transparency Global Support Programme III (Climate Transparency-GSP III)

### Region

Global

### GEF Project ID

11880

### Country(ies)

Global

### Type of Project

FSP

### GEF Agency(ies):

UNEP

### GEF Agency ID

210249

UNDP

10292

### Executing Partner

### Executing Partner Type

Others

### GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

### Submission Date

3/5/2025

### Project Sector (CCM Only)

Mixed & Others

### Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender results areas, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Academia

### Type of Trust Fund

GET

### Project Duration (Months)

24

### GEF Project Grant: (a)

9,000,000.00

### GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

### Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

855,000.00

### Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

### Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

9,855,000.00

### Total Co-financing

1,100,000.00

### PPG Amount: (e)

145,000.00

### PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

13,775.00

### PPG total amount: (e+f)

158,775.00

### Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

10,013,775.00

## Project Tags

CBIT: Yes NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

To tackle climate change and its negative impacts, world leaders at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris adopted the Paris Agreement, which empowers countries to;- act towards limiting global average temperature increases to as close to 1.50C above pre-industrial levels, to strengthen climate resilience and to make financial flows consistent with these overall objectives. The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), established under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is indeed a cornerstone of the agreement, designed to build trust and confidence, promote effective implementation, and foster a clear understanding of climate action and progress towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Tracking the realization of the Paris Agreement objectives heavily relies on transparent reporting, which provides crucial data to inform decision-making, design stronger climate policies over time and achieve broader development goals. Implementing the ETF at the national level represents a substantial challenge for developing country Parties. While these countries have an increasing number of methodological and informational resources at their disposal, many of them face persistent challenges in their capacity to monitor and report on climate change: a lack of data, staff shortages and turnover, and a lack of individual capacity to conduct certain transparency-related activities.

In recognition of these challenges, the Conference of Parties (CoP) guided the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities. In addition, several other initiatives and support providers currently assist countries in meeting their ETF requirements. This highlights the need for a more coordinated and synergistic approach between relevant ETF actors, through networking, sharing information, best practices and lessons learnt and a coordination platform. This project is therefore designed to provide technical support and capacity building services at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non-Annex I countries<sup>1</sup> under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreements to better respond to reporting requirements under the ETF, and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs.

This concept is a continuation of the Global Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II, comprised of CBIT- IIA (GEFID 10128) and IIB (GEFID 10088) projects, which is expected to be concluded in Yr. 2026/27. This 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase – renamed as ‘Climate Transparency-GSP III’ – proposes to support development of global knowledge and build capacities of developing countries to accelerate implementation of the ETF, while seeking to adapt to the evolving climate transparency global architecture. It will build on good practices and lessons learned from the implementation of CBIT-GSP Phase II and, most importantly, will consider recommendations from the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of current Phase II completed in December 2024.

The aforementioned project objective will be achieved through two main components:

1. Knowledge development, storage and diffusion. The expected outcome from this component is that developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use information and knowledge on new and existing reporting requirements. Proposed outputs under this outcome are: -
  - New, updated and improved gender-responsive guidance, tools and knowledge products on transparency are available in various languages for developing countries and practitioners.
  - IPCC gender-responsive knowledge products, including an updated IPCC Inventory Software, are available to developing countries and practitioners.
  - An enhanced Climate Transparency Platform provides developing countries with improved access to gender-responsive guidance, tools, and knowledge products on transparency.
  - Advocacy and communication products on project results and lessons learned on ETF implementation are available to a global audience.
2. Building capacity to apply knowledge on climate transparency. The expected outcome of this component is that developing countries take concrete steps to apply the knowledge and skills gained through participation in the

regional networks and targeted technical assistance to improve climate reporting and develop gender-responsive transparency frameworks. The following outputs under this outcome will support developing countries to:

- have access to transparency networks and communities of practice organized by region and/or language for building their capacity on transparency.
- have access to a strengthened and coordinated network of transparency support providers.
- be equipped to improve the quality of their climate change reports and enhanced transparency frameworks in a gender-responsive manner.

The proposed project's multi-level approach is innovative. At the global level, project will seek to provide information and knowledge to all interested developing country Parties. At the same time, it will also foster regional exchanges and support to specific national team upon request. It will then use the knowledge gained from these interactions to contribute to the global platform, as well as encourages individual countries to share transparency-related knowledge and experience with their peers directly through the platform. The projected number of direct beneficiaries receiving nonmonetary, capacity support through this project is estimated at PIF stage as 1500 (750 women and 750 men) and will be re-assessed and confirmed at PPG phase.

## Indicative Project Overview

### Project Objective

Develop global knowledge and provide capacity-building to developing countries to consolidate implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), as a key component of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

### Project Components

#### 1. Knowledge development, storage and diffusion

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type             | Trust Fund        |
| Technical Assistance       | GET               |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 3,000,000.00               | 350,000.00        |

Outcome:

1. Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use knowledge developed through the global platform on ETF reporting requirements

Output:

1.1 New, updated and improved gender-responsive guidance, tools and knowledge products on transparency are available in various languages to developing countries and practitioners.

1.2 IPCC gender-responsive knowledge products, including an updated IPCC Inventory Software, are available to developing countries and practitioners.

1.3. An enhanced Climate Transparency Platform provides developing countries with access to gender-responsive guidance, tools, and knowledge products on transparency.

1.4. Advocacy and communication products on project results and lessons learned on ETF implementation are available to a global audience.

## 2. Building capacity to apply knowledge on climate transparency

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type             | Trust Fund        |
| Technical Assistance       | GET               |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 5,270,480.00               | 400,000.00        |

### Outcome:

2. Developing countries take concrete steps to apply the knowledge and skills gained through participation in the project to improve climate reporting and implement gender-responsive transparency frameworks

### Output:

2.1. Developing countries have access to transparency networks and communities of practice organised by region and/or language for building their capacity on transparency.

2.2. Developing countries have access to a strengthened network of transparency support providers.

2.3. Developing countries are equipped to improve the quality of their climate change reports and enhanced transparency frameworks in a gender-responsive manner.

## M&E

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type             | Trust Fund        |
| Technical Assistance       | GET               |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 300,970.00                 | 200,000.00        |

### Outcome:

The GEF project is effectively monitored and evaluated

### Output:

3.1. Monitoring and evaluation products are delivered

## Component Balances

| Project Components  | GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Knowledge development, storage and diffusion                 | 3,000,000.00               | 350,000.00        |
| 2. Building capacity to apply knowledge on climate transparency | 5,270,480.00               | 400,000.00        |
| M&E   | 300,970.00                 | 200,000.00        |

|                                |                     |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Subtotal</b>                | <b>8,571,450.00</b> | <b>950,000.00</b>   |
| Project Management Cost        | 428,550.00          | 150,000.00          |
| <b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b> | <b>9,000,000.00</b> | <b>1,100,000.00</b> |

Please provide justification

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

#### Global problem, system elements, drivers and trends

As the global community ramps up efforts to combat climate change, there is a general recognition of the need for transparent reporting, review and tracking of climate information, which will increase the awareness and knowledge of national governments and the international community regarding what has already been achieved and what is still needed to limit global warming to well below 2°C, while striving for 1.5°C. Aiming to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, Parties adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015, NDCs being a central element therein, and its Enhanced Transparency Framework, the main accountability and reporting mechanism on progress towards achieving its goals. The ETF establishes provisions for countries to regularly track and report information on national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, progress towards achieving NDC targets, support provided and mobilized, support needed and received, climate change impacts and adaptation action. This information is reported through the Biennial Transparency Reports. The BTRs provide a detailed account of progress towards achieving the NDCs, which, in turn, informs subsequent NDC submissions. At the global level, the BTRs will undergo a technical expert review (TER) process and provide an important input to the Global Stocktake (GST), thus enabling the assessment of collective progress and impact. This will lead to stronger climate action as the climate regime moves towards the goal of net zero emissions by 2050, and climate neutrality thereafter.

The transparency arrangements under the intergovernmental climate change regime call on countries to develop and improve their systems and processes for gathering, analysing and reporting climate information. The ETF entails considerable reporting improvements in terms of scope and depth of reporting for developing country Parties, as compared to Biennial Update Reports (BURs), which have been superseded by BTRs. Meanwhile, all Parties under the

UNFCCC are still required to submit National Communications (NCs).<sup>11</sup> Under the Paris Agreement, all Parties are expected to submit their BTRs. The Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) of the ETF establish more rigorous transparency-related obligations while granting flexibility to “those developing country parties that need it in the light of their capacities,” besides considering the “special circumstances” of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Implementation of the ETF at the country level represents a substantial challenge to developing country Parties, which have limited capacities to monitor and report on climate change efforts and impacts. While various reports to the UNFCCC have been prepared for many years, many developing country Parties still face significant capacity constraints vis-à-vis the preparation and submission of quality reports on a regular basis. Many countries have relied primarily on consultants (including international) for the preparation of the reports, with limited scope for strengthening national reporting capacities and building up national structures.

Many developing country Parties are establishing institutional frameworks for handling reporting to the UNFCCC, but still face multiple challenges in complying with ETF reporting requirements, such as:

- Insufficient and unsustainable institutional arrangements, procedures, and protocols to allow for the comprehensive and regular collection, analysis, and reporting of required data on a regular basis.
- Low national political commitment of decision-makers on climate transparency issues.
- Lack of robust national climate transparency systems and IT infrastructures to automate data management and archiving (digitalization).
- Insufficient technical expertise in areas like data collection, analysis, and reporting and lack of skilled personnel to manage the complex requirements of the ETF and its reporting systems.
- Limited technical content and related capacity for reporting on BTR chapters (GHG inventory, NDC tracking under article 4, including mitigation actions and GHG emissions projections, climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7, including vulnerability assessment and loss and damage, tracking of support needed and received under Articles 9-11.
- Lack of robust national climate transparency systems for reporting to the UNFCCC.
- Limited integration of climate data and information into national planning and decision-making processes.
- Significant gaps in data quality, availability and data sharing due to limited infrastructure, technical expertise, and/or resources.
- Dependency on external support and reliance on international funding or technical assistance to meet ETF requirements.
- Insufficient gender-responsive approaches in stakeholder engagement, data collection, and climate policy integration, including limited gender-disaggregated data, inadequate understanding of gender implications in mitigation and adaptation, and lack of equitable participation in climate policies and institutions.

Underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context have been considered. This project will be resistant to potential impacts of a changing climate, including severe weather events, as it will be executed through both online and in-person activities. When in-person meetings are to be organised, the team will consult advisory websites to check climate-related risks. Moreover, good practices and up-to-date data storage and archiving solutions will be applied to mitigate risks to data security and functioning of the Climate Transparency Platform. Accelerated technological change has also been considered, including the changing landscape of technological innovation, acceleration, hyperconnectivity and digitalisation. The project will be updating its strategies and technological choices constantly to ensure data security and public access to data and information on transparency in addition to providing support to beneficiary countries on the use of digital tools and resources.

A waning of the consensus on the benefits of globalisation, with countries turning away from multilateral agreements towards bilateral or regional agreements and increasing protectionist measures, may lead to the undermining of current cooperation and agreement on international environmental standards and goals, and affect international efforts on climate action. Having said that, most nations agree that climate change is an urgent and growing threat to not only international but also national security, contributing to increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources like food and water. The proposed project will be responding to these challenges by promoting increased transparency, as the ETF aims to build mutual trust and confidence in the context of Paris Agreement implementation. Growing global demand for energy and materials is another related trend, which the project will tackle by prioritising low GHG emissions options with environmental co-benefits in its operations. The project will consider sociocultural aspects, such as trends in new forms of education and learning, while at the same time fostering the significant role of science and evidence-based decision-making. On a related note, the growing debt and systemic financial risks may affect developing countries' capacities to engage in the project capacity-building activities, which is considered in the table on risks, as well as financial support from transparency partners.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Under the UNFCCC, differentiated reporting requirements applied to countries in Annex I to the Convention, and non-Annex I (NAI) Parties. Annex I Parties reported their Biennial Reports and NCs, while NAI were required to report BURs and NCs.

**Baseline – current and future existing efforts to address this global environmental problem.**



There are various transparency related initiatives and programmes either GEF or non-GEF funded that the project will build on, as follows: -

#### The GEF-funded Global Support Programme (GSP) (2015-2020)

This programme was jointly implemented by UNEP and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the aim of providing support to non-Annex I Parties in their preparations of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports under the UNFCCC, in close coordination with the then called Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) on NCs from Parties not included in Annex I. The GSP also piloted the creation of regional networks for peer-learning.

#### GEF-funded Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Global Coordination Platform (CBIT GCP) (2017-2019)

With the ratification of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, and in support of its Enhanced Transparency Framework, this succeeding programme, which was jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP and executed by UNDP and the UNEP DTU Partnership aimed to establish an online platform supporting countries to understand and implement the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT GCP, here considered as Phase I, had three components: i) enhanced coordination and best practice sharing for transparency practitioners through the establishment of a web-based coordination platform; ii) information sharing enhanced through regional and global meetings; and iii) needs and gaps identified for enhancing transparency systems and CBIT coordination. The Terminal Evaluation of Phase I, conducted in 2020, showed that countries acknowledged that the CBIT GCP provided a platform for enhanced coordination and information sharing among international partners; revealed an appetite for participating countries to share experiences and peer learning, as well as facilitated access to methodologies, tools and for interacting with international technical partners and donors. A significant proportion of the CBIT countries appeared to have used the resources on the web platform in their work, as well as learnings from the webinars and workshops, in particular from the experiences from other countries.

#### CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) (2022-2027)

Phase II aimed at unifying the above initiatives i.e. (i) GSP and (ii) CBIT GCP under a single initiative that merges and presents a one-stop shop for transparency and streamlines technical support related to both the ETF of the Paris Agreement and the continued reporting under the UNFCCC. The CBIT-GSP Phase II is composed of two GEF projects supported under GEF-7:

- CBIT- IIA (GEFID 10128) (May 2020 – October 2025)
- IIB (GEFID 10088) (01 June 2022- 31 March 2027).

Components of CBIT-GSP Phase II comprise streamlined knowledge development and delivery in support of Article 13; global stakeholder outreach and dissemination of best practices; and capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements. UNEP-CCC is the Executing Agency of both projects, (previously known as UNEP DTU Partnership), with the same team taking the lead over the years. Phase II has been delivered in close collaboration and with in-kind and cash co-finance from UNDP's Climate Promise, specifically to mobilize tailored in-country technical support and regional training for the Francophone and Lusophone clusters, as well as co-financing for the global forums.

The project develops and shares a comprehensive and diverse range of knowledge products that reflect the latest global knowledge on transparency, from case studies to guidelines, which can help build capacity and facilitate learning for policymakers, practitioners and experts. An example from the current phase is the development of a dedicated Gender Responsive Biennial Transparency Reports Toolkit, drawing upon and updating the Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit launched in 2015 under GSP. Such knowledge product is shared through the [Knowledge Centre](#) of the Climate Transparency Platform, creating synergies and optimizing available resources.

Annual global forums are organized to strengthen national transparency capacities by presenting results and lessons learned from various projects and experiences related to the ETF. In Yr. 2024, CBIT-GSP Phase II, in collaboration with UNDP Climate Promise and the GEF, organized the [first Global Transparency Forum](#), held on May 20-21, 2024, in Tokyo, to which over 180 government officials, experts, and representatives from international organizations attended. The event served as a platform to exchange knowledge, successes, and lessons learned in preparation for the submission of countries' first BTRs by December 2024 and their updated NDCs by February 2025.

At the regional level, ten transparency networks were established, covering all developing countries, through which capacity-building is provided to countries while fostering south-south collaboration and peer exchange. The transparency networks are organized by region and/or language: (i) Anglophone Africa; (ii) Anglophone Caribbean; (iii) Asia; (iv) Central Asia and the Caucasus; (v) Eurasia; (vi) Francophone; (vii) Lusophone Cluster; (viii) Middle East and North Africa; (ix) Pacific; and the (x) Spanish speaking Latin America and the Caribbean. All networks are fully operational with dedicated Network coordinators based in the respective regions. Two networks – the Lusophone Cluster & the Francophone

network – are implemented in collaboration and with a significant co-financing from the UNDP Climate Promise – Enhancing Climate Transparency project funded by the Government of Belgium. The networks facilitate the exchange of knowledge through a diverse range of tools and mechanisms (e.g., virtual networks, webinars, thematic workshops, bilateral exchanges, mutual learning, etc.). Over 100 training, workshops and webinars have already been delivered by CBIT-GSP Phase II to date. Information on the 10 ETF regional networks available here: - <https://climate-transparency-platform.org/networks>

At the country level, CBIT-GSP Phase II liaises with national CBIT and enabling activity projects to maintain an overview of the work under way and to complement activities where needed. Most importantly, upon request through the Platform, CBIT-GSP Phase II provides targeted in-country support to address countries' gaps and needs. The project also undertakes quality reviews of country transparency reports, such as National Communications, BURs, and BTRs. To date, CBIT-GSP Phase II has responded to over 100 requests for in-country support and reviewed over 40 transparency reports.

A recently conducted Mid-Term Review<sup>[2]</sup> of the CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) IIA & IIB concluded that CBIT-GSP Phase II has the following strengths: performing well with high level of activity, benefitting from the in-house technical capacities of UNEP-CCC, regional networks enabling engagement at the country level, and a partnership approach with workshops with co-implementation and co-financing by partners and national GEF projects. This has enabled CBIT-GSP II to engage at the country level to a surprising degree, with several in-country trainings and technical advice on how to improve draft reports (NCs, BURs, BTRs). Important partnerships include UNDP and Belgium financing and administering two of the eight regional CBIT-GSP II networks and partnership with the UNFCCC Secretariat. CBIT-GSP II has achieved a high degree of cost-effectiveness through leveraging substantial amounts of co-financing from its partnerships (p. 48). Concerning effectiveness, output-related end targets have for the larger part already been achieved or even exceeded at mid-term, and remaining targets will likely be achieved before project completion. All types of support were widely found useful by country-level beneficiaries, and a clear contribution has been made to enhancing their Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), transparency/ETF knowledge and capacities. The outcome targets are likely to be achieved, with country-level beneficiaries already (to a significant or moderate extent) applying the knowledge obtained and using the tools for data collection, analysis and reporting, and for setting up ETF institutional arrangements (p. 11). The following were identified as lessons learned in the MTR:

1. A concerted partnership approach can substantially enhance the breadth and depth of engagement and results delivery while increasing cost-effectiveness.
2. A decentralised delivery strategy can enable a global project to adapt support better to the local context, engage more deeply with countries, and enhance South-South peer learning.
3. It can be difficult to strengthen the coordination among support providers and build effective shared platforms despite a clear and well-understood added value and genuine interest.

The following recommendations from the MTR are taken into consideration: (i) Further increase the capacity of CBIT-GSP to respond to an anticipated increased demand and need for support for BTR preparation; (ii) Further ramp up efforts to promote strengthened coordination of climate transparency support providers; (iii) Review indicators and end targets; and (iv) Explore opportunities for enhancing the profile of human rights and gender in CBIT-GSP II (p. 52-54).<sup>[1]</sup>

This proposed project, (Phase III) therefore offers continuity of the services offers under Phase II and presents an opportunity to incorporate improvements where needed. The timely submission of this PIF for consideration; and its subsequent proposal development planned for 2025-26, underscores the need for continuity of the technical support services, and operations, securing continuity in supporting countries in their efforts to improve transparency over time as called for in the ETF.

#### Other baseline initiatives:

The Climate Transparency-GSP III project will robustly coordinate with other transparency support initiatives to develop knowledge products that will be made available through the Climate Transparency Platform: coordinate with relevant support providers in organizing training and peer-exchange events. The following present an overview of other ETF initiatives and the project will seek to enhance synergies with: -

**Table 1: - Other Baseline Initiatives**

| PROJECT/<br>PROGRAM                              | DONOR    | GOAL/OBJECTIVE   |
|--|----------|--|
| CBIT projects at the country level               | GEF      | <p>CBIT projects aim to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13; and to assist with improvement of transparency over time. There are 92 national CBIT projects approved (of which 9 were concluded), including 29 projects from LDCs and 17 from SIDS.</p> <p><b>Synergies:</b> - Participating countries share project information, participate in knowledge exchange, and collaborate in the creation of content for the Climate Transparency Platform. In collaboration with the various IA teams managing these projects, the Climate Transparency-GSP III will provide targeted technical assistance to address identified gaps and needs.</p>   |
| Country projects for preparation of BTRs and NCs | GEF      | <p>Enabling Activities support non-Annex I countries in the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications to the UNFCCC/PA, including capacity-building and peer exchanges activities on the ETF.</p> <p><b>Synergies:</b> - Participating countries share project information, participate in knowledge exchange, and collaborate in the creation of content for the Climate Transparency Platform. In collaboration with the In collaboration with the UNEP/UNDP/FAO team managing these projects, the Climate Transparency-GSP III will continue to provide targeted technical assistance to address identified gaps and needs. Upon request, CBIT-GSP II undertakes quality reviews of country transparency reports</p>   |
| UN Intergovernmental body                        | IPCC     | <p>The IPCC supports countries in enhancing transparency related to climate action by providing scientific assessments, developing methodologies for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and offering training support and resources, including the IPCC inventory software, to help countries meet their reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p><b>Synergies:</b> - By April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, forty-five (45) out of sixty-four (64) developing countries that submitted BTRs used the IPCC Inventory Software in some capacity; twenty-three (23) countries used the interoperability functionality with the UNFCCC ETF reporting tool. It is therefore expected that the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC-TFI), in collaboration with the Climate Transparency-GSP III will support the enhancement of the IPCC inventory software and the continued interoperability with the UNFCCC ETF software.</p> |
| Other Global GEF-funded CBIT projects            | GEF/ FAO | <p>“Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising” (GEF ID 11308): It aims to enhance the quality, timeliness, accessibility, and usability of forest-related data, in line with the ETF requirements – under implementation (2024-2026).</p> <p>“Global capacity building towards enhanced transparency (CBIT-AFOLU+)” (GEF ID 11316): Countries enhance the</p>  |

| PROJECT/<br>PROGRAM                        | DONOR  | GOAL/OBJECTIVE  |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p>capacity to establish the foundation of a systemic tracking and reporting framework to comply with Article 13 and sustainably scale-up ambition for their climate action requirements – <b>under implementation</b> (2024-2027)</p> <p><b>CBIT-AFOLU (GEF ID 9864) – concluded (2018-2023).</b></p> <p><b>CBIT-Forest (GEF ID 10071) – concluded (2020-2022).</b></p>  |
| Regional GEF-funded CBIT projects          | GEF/ Conservation International                        | Regional capacity building of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member states for enhanced transparency in Climate Change MRV as defined in the Paris Agreement (GEF ID 10093).  |
|  | <b>GEF/ UNEP</b>                                       | <p><b>Strengthening national capacities for implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework in Caribbean countries (GEF ID 11675) – concept approved (December 2024). Participating Countries: - Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Suriname.</b></p> <p><b>Executing Agency: - Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)</b></p>  |
| Donor-funded country and regional projects | UNDP<br><br>NDC Support Programme/ Climate Promise     | It provides comprehensive support for NDC updates (aiming at increased ambition of national climate pledges) and implementation. Under its new phase, UNDP will support countries to step up data and transparency efforts with a focus on meeting ETF requirements and tracking NDC progress. The program will include improving GHG inventories; enhancing MRV systems; assistance for the compilation and review of BTRs; strengthening regional networks to enhance South-South knowledge exchange; and working with countries to better integrate data and perspectives on gender and Indigenous peoples.  |
|  | GCF<br><br>Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme | To support country-driven initiatives by developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacities, governance mechanisms, and planning and programming frameworks towards a transformational long-term climate action agenda. Many countries have approved readiness proposals which include developing or enhancing their MRV systems, such as Ecuador, Guyana, Yemen, CARICOM (Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis), Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, Albania, Central American countries (Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, and Guatemala), Colombia, Senegal, Togo, Grenada, Afghanistan. In addition, GCF provides readiness support for the development of national adaptation plans. |
| Other multi-donor-supported initiatives    | ICAT   | Implemented by UNEP-CCC and other implementing partners, such as the GHG Management Institute, and financed by a multi-donor fund, aims to support developing countries build their climate transparency frameworks, concentrating efforts in four areas: delivering direct country support, establishing and running Regional Climate Action Transparency Hubs, developing tools and methodologies (ICAT Toolbox), undertaking knowledge-sharing activities to strengthen a global community of practice. At least 40 countries have applied ICAT tools, guides and methodologies.   |
| Bilateral donor-supported initiatives      | IKI  | Several bilateral donors have initiatives to support MRV or climate transparency, such as the “Climate Transparency” project that has been funded by the German Federal   |

| PROJECT/<br>PROGRAM                             | DONOR   | GOAL/OBJECTIVE   |
|---|---|--|
|   |   | Government through the International Climate Initiative (IKI) (2018-2023).   |
| Multilateral coalitions to support transparency | PATPA   | The Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, a semi-formal forum open to the adherence new countries, supports international efforts to engage in practical exchanges and political dialogue on climate transparency. Since the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the Partnership focuses particularly on the implementation of the ETF. It has had more than 100 countries participate in its activities, which include meetings during UN climate negotiations; policy dialogue in Annual Partnership Retreats, capacity-building activities and peer-to-peer learning through technical workshops in five regional and language groups, delivering knowledge products and knowledge sharing.  |
|   | PCCB  | The Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), although not an implementing body, aims to address gaps and needs in implementing and further enhancing capacity-building in developing countries, relying on contributions and support from capacity-building actors and stakeholders. It has established the PCCB Network, already joined by over 220 entities and initiatives, to engage actors involved in climate-related capacity-building and strengthen its ties with relevant bodies under and outside the Convention. Activities undertaken in three areas: enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity-building; addressing capacity-building gaps and needs; and awareness-raising, knowledge- and information-sharing and stakeholder engagement. |
|   | PaSTI   | The Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) was established in 2017 at COP23 as an initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) in collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI). PaSTI aims to provide value-added activities to existing initiatives on transparency, and it promotes engagement of the private sector and local government by identifying incentive mechanisms and developing critical tools.  |
|   | Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (CCMRVH)                  | The Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub (MRV Hub) is a regional institution and country-driven partnership that enables countries to cooperate on technical challenges underlying climate change mitigation. The MRV Hub exists to foster regional technical excellence and generate stronger policy-relevant carbon accounting. Through the MRV Hub, country experts and MRV Hub staff function as a true learning and mentoring cooperative. It is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI), supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), and by the Global Support Programme.   |
| Regional institutions and projects              | EU4Climate project in the Eastern Partnership countries | EU4Climate supports Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine in the development and implementation of climate-related policies which contribute to their low emission and climate resilient development and their commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. One of its objectives is to achieve an enhanced transparency of emissions and climate action.   |
|   | African Union Commission (AUC)                          | AUC developed the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032). It provides an outline for a harmonized and coordinated approach to respond to climate change. Priority interventions include: 1d. Develop/implement sound monitoring, review and reporting   |



| PROJECT/<br>PROGRAM                                    | DONOR  | GOAL/OBJECTIVE   |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | processes and systems, including MRV of GHG emissions, sinks and removals, and M&E of adaptation, climate finance and technical support outcomes to obtain the relevant data and information for policy development. 2c. Develop systems for the monitoring and reporting of policy implementation, as well as open data and information sharing platforms to foster accountability and transparency.  |
|  | European Environment Agency (EEA) Energy Community Project | Capacity-building support provided by the European Environment Agency to the Energy Community Contracting Parties in their transparency initiatives, particularly under the Governance Regulation framework and the Enhanced Transparency Framework: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia.   |
| Multilateral initiatives (COP29 Presidency and UNFCCC) | Baku Global Climate Transparency Platform (BTP)            | Launched on September 3, 2024, at the COP29 Presidency's High-Level Dialogue in Baku, the Baku Global Climate Transparency Platform is designed to build mutual trust and confidence among Parties, support the capacity-building efforts of developing country Parties in preparing and finalizing their BTRs, encourage universal participation in the ETF, and advance the transparency agenda beyond COP29. BTP was created in collaboration with UNFCCC. UNDP and UNEP will reach out to the COP29 Presidency, during the PPG phase, to better understand potential areas of collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts. This information will be included in the CEO Endorsement document. |

## Key barriers to addressing the global environmental problem.

Following an in-depth analysis of the existing problems, multiple projects and initiatives related to the topic, the ETF related challenges have been clustered in two barriers and are proposed to be addressed under this concept, to enable countries move towards developing their enhanced transparency frameworks: -

- The need for continuous access up-to-date and integrated knowledge, information, good practices, lessons learned and tools for developing robust national climate transparency systems and meeting ETF reporting requirements.
- Lack or limited coordinated opportunities to engage in peer-learning, connect with international/regional experts and access institutionalized training on transparency to address their specific gaps and needs in a gender-responsive ETF implementation.

Barrier 1: Developing countries and practitioners have a continuous need to access up-to-date and integrated knowledge, information, good practices, lessons learned and tools for developing robust national climate transparency systems and meeting ETF reporting requirements.

Developing country Parties will continuously require new and updated knowledge products and training materials on implementing the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) of the Paris Agreement as they evolve, drawing upon technical expert reviews of BTRs, CBIT project reports and evaluations, gaps and needs assessments, inter alia. They'll need the best guidance and tools readily available in multiple languages and tailored to the specific needs of different regions or countries to work efficiently to comply with transparency requirements. Knowledge exists, but is rapidly becoming out of date, while sometimes being disseminated by not fully trusted sources. Moreover, many transparency support initiatives exist, and multiple actors are working to support developing countries implement theETF, which generates partial and fragmented information.

Developing countries need guidance and digital transparency tools moving away from fragmented processes to integrated, robust and uniform systems facilitating data collection, analysis and reporting. Digital transparency solutions, online databases, and automation tools can significantly improve data accuracy and streamline compliance with ETF

requirements. Of specific interest to the countries is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Inventory Software which is designed to facilitate the generation of data for the UNFCCC's Electronic Reporting Tool (ETF) for national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. Developing countries face challenges in using the software, and in its interoperability with UNFCCC reporting tools, including compatibility issues with operative systems, as well as limited capacity in data handling. The IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories is actively working on improving the software, addressing user feedback, enhancing its functionality, and ensuring that these updates are communicated to the software users.

The online web platform [Climate Transparency Platform](#) is a multifunctional clearing house for knowledge related to climate transparency and a well-respected platform, as acknowledged through COP decision 18/CMA.5 ('Also appreciates the launch of the Climate Transparency Platform, an online tool for facilitating reporting by developing country Parties under the enhanced transparency framework'). Countries will continue to need such a repository of global knowledge to promote coordination, collaboration, and informed decision-making, thus having access to a trusted impartial source of information. The Platform provides detailed information on support providers, transparency projects, especially CBIT projects, NCs, BURs, BTRs, as well as related initiatives in developing countries, and a list of thematic transparency experts as a resource database. It allows for exchange within the climate transparency community, through ten dedicated Network Forums, virtual meeting places for peer-to-peer exchange and learning, in conjunction with the various activities undertaken in the Transparency Networks, as described below. An "Ask the Expert" function on the platform provides for ad-hoc support on transparency. The Platform also serves as a space for coordination among transparency support providers and has enabled the establishment of partnerships with the main transparency players, such as UNFCCC, UNDP, CGE, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The wider transparency community has an integral role and shares responsibility in building and improving the content through sustained stakeholder engagement and information updates. Finally, it enables countries to directly request targeted support.

The use of the Climate Transparency Platform requires more time to mature and be widely used by the transparency community, both the support providers as well as countries and project teams. The Climate Transparency Platform currently faces limitations related to: -

- Limited use by the CBIT project community
- Limited engagement by some of the support providers
- Limited functionalities and human resources to progress the interaction with users and related interactive elements such as support coordination elements, network forums and the "ask the expert" page
- Limitation in tracking the status change of GEF projects

Based on the limitations and lessons learned from the initial phase of the platform, the next steps for the platform include but are not limited to:

- Increasing outreach and communication about the platform
- Having structures dialogues with support providers
- Having an advisory task team ( with representatives from key support providers), to inform the platforms further revision and updates, when needed
- Improving the interaction and exchange functionalities of the platform to provide more interactive elements and better user experience
- Sharing information about the platform during the launch of CBIT projects to ensure that CBIT project teams utilize the platform right from the beginning
- Considering inclusion of tailored LDCs/SIDS knowledge products in the Platform, considering climate vulnerabilities and special circumstances.

In addition to the above needs, developing countries face challenges in developing specific curricula for executive training and master's programmes on climate transparency at the country level. Towards this end, the project proposes to develop specific curricula and facilitated e-learning courses for executive training and master's programs on climate transparency at the country level, focus on building capacity for implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, including data collection, reporting, and review processes, while also addressing national priorities and sustainable development goals.

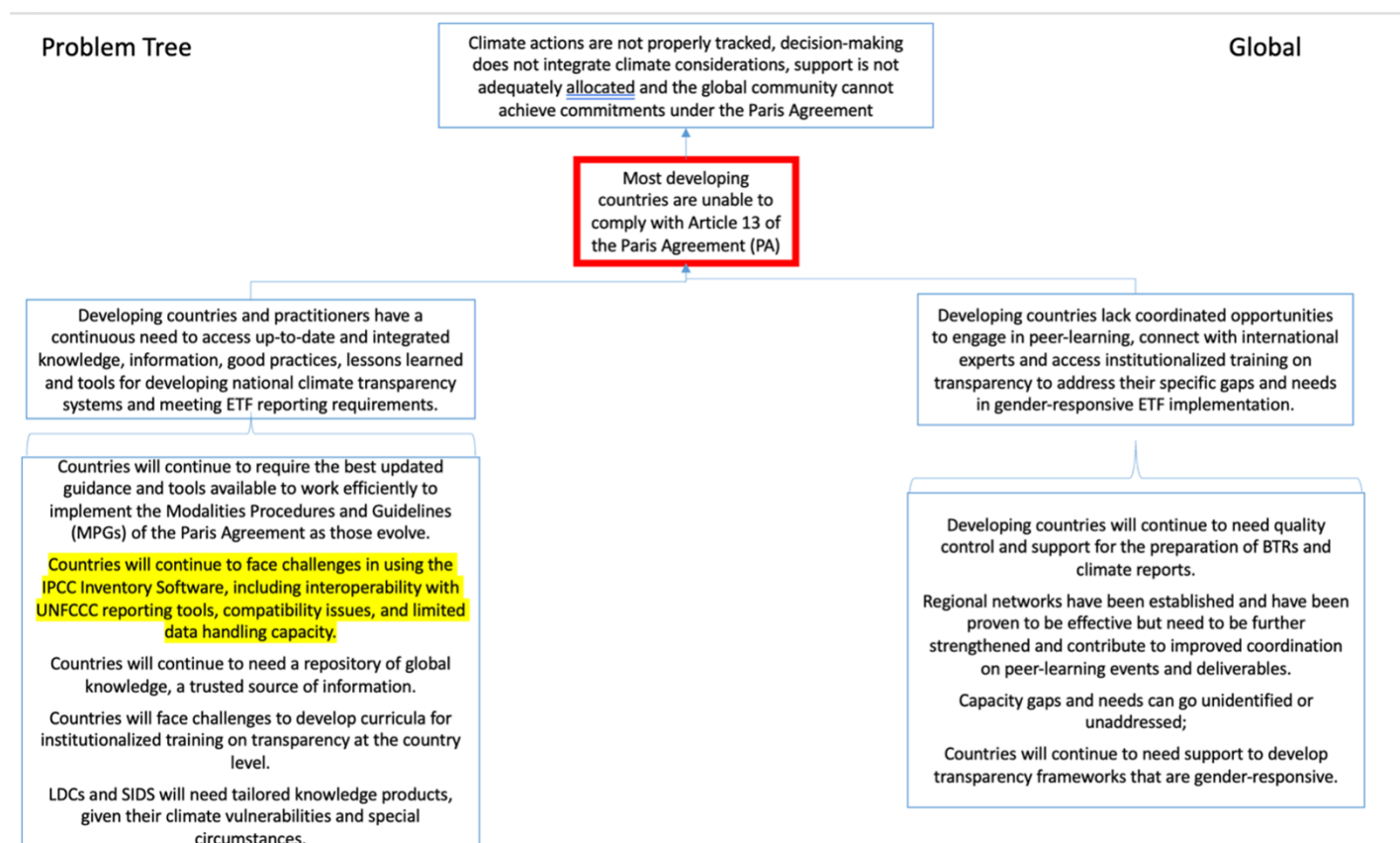
Barrier 2: Developing countries lack coordinated opportunities to engage in peer-learning, connect with international/regional experts and access institutionalized training on transparency to address their specific gaps and needs in a gender-responsive ETF implementation.

The focus on regional and sub-regional networks and peer-to-peer learning stems from the highly positive experiences that developing countries have had with the networks to date. There is a general recognition that (i) developing countries

need to continue learning from their peers as this creates a healthy peer pressure towards showcasing improved results, and that (ii) the existence of many ETF-related initiatives at various levels, require better coordination among support providers and key stakeholders in the provision of support at various levels.

Developing country Parties need a range of cross-cutting and sector-specific technical experts to guide and support them in meeting the ETF requirement. These services may range from support in (i) aligning their BTR preparation with NDC updating processes; (ii) setting up transparency systems within their respective national institutional arrangements, (iii) undertaking a final quality check of their report before submission to the UNFCCC, (iv) building their expertise in taking forward recommendations arising from technical expert reviews of BTRs and conduct improvement plans, and (v) implementation of gender-responsive transparency frameworks, which is either lacking or needs strengthening. These range of support services are critical in ensuring timely completion and submission of good quality reports overtime. However, most countries face challenges to engage services of international and/or regional experts to provide such tailored support due to prolonged national procurement processes, which create further delays in report completion. There is need, therefore, for countries to have access to a roster of vetted international and regional transparency experts who can provide tailored technical assistance and expert-matching support, connecting countries with specialists based on their unique transparency needs.

Additionally, developing countries face challenges in getting key national stakeholders and staff and personnel sustainably trained. Access to institutionalized long-term capacity-building training and learning on transparency at the country level is usually lacking or insufficient, leading to gaps in technical expertise. Short-term workshops and ad-hoc training do not ensure sustained capacity-building or institutional knowledge retention. There is a need therefore for countries to implement gender-responsive transparency frameworks through participation of staff and personnel in training and peer learning through various support services offered under this project.



**Figure 1. Climate Transparency Problem Tree**

## Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders include:

- UNEP, UNDP (Implementing Agencies)
- UNEP-CCC, UNDP Climate Hub (Executing Agencies)
- IPCC TFI - Technical Support Unit (TSU)
- UNFCCC



- Consultative Group of Experts (CGE)
- Other transparency support initiatives: ICAT, PATPA, PCCB, PaSTI
- Other GEF implementing agencies: FAO, CI, UNIDO, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), WWF, Environmental Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China (FECO)
- Developing countries with GEF-funded CBIT projects
- Developing countries with BTR and National Communication projects
- Development partners: International Organisations and developed country governments.
- Regional organisations such as the Africa Union Commission, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) and the European Environment Agency
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) (national, sub-regional, regional, and international) and research institutes
- UNFCCC Parties

A more complete list of stakeholders to be involved in the next stages of the project, as well as their expected roles, is available in the stakeholder assessment uploaded to the GEF portal as part of this PIF (Attachment 3).

<sup>[1]</sup> Under the UNFCCC, differentiated reporting requirements applied to countries in Annex I to the Convention, and non-Annex I (NAI) Parties. Annex I Parties reported their Biennial Reports and NCs, while NAI were required to report BURs and NCs.

<sup>[2]</sup> MTR report available at: <https://gefportal.worldbank.org/App/#/implementation/MTR/e888add2-d7c7-e811-813e-3863bb2e1360/7f128c77-efed-ef11-be21-000d3a5c47bf>

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

### Project Description

This project proposes the continuation of the CBIT Global Support Programme, through the Climate Transparency Global Support Programme III, building on the successful experience of the CBIT-GSP as well as lessons learned and recommendations from the Mid-Term Review of the CBIT-GSP Phase II project. The overall objective of the project is to develop global knowledge and provide capacity-building to developing countries to consolidate implementation of the ETF, as a key component of the ambition mechanism of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT Global Support Programme is considered as an 'enabler' that indirectly contributes to countries' compliance with UNFCCC and Paris Agreement Transparency Requirements, by means of knowledge development and transfer as well as capacity-building activities. Its direct outcomes focus on stimulating behavioural change in beneficiary countries within its area of influence as related to such knowledge transfer and capacity development.

It will provide support to developing countries through various support modalities, at the global, regional and national level in a coordinated way. The project focuses on the continuation and improvement of global unified support necessary for building developing countries' capacities to comply with the ETF. In this sense, the project will build upon baseline initiatives, especially CBIT-GSP Phase II initiative, comprising of both IIA and IIB projects, to provide a comprehensive package of technical support to developing countries, as well as enhanced support to LDCs and SIDS to meet the ETF requirements. At PIF stage, the proposed Theory of Change (ToC) has been developed drawing upon recommendations arising from the joint Mid-Term Review of the IIA and IIB projects (GEF ID 10088 and 10128).

## Theory of Change – Climate Transparency-GSP III

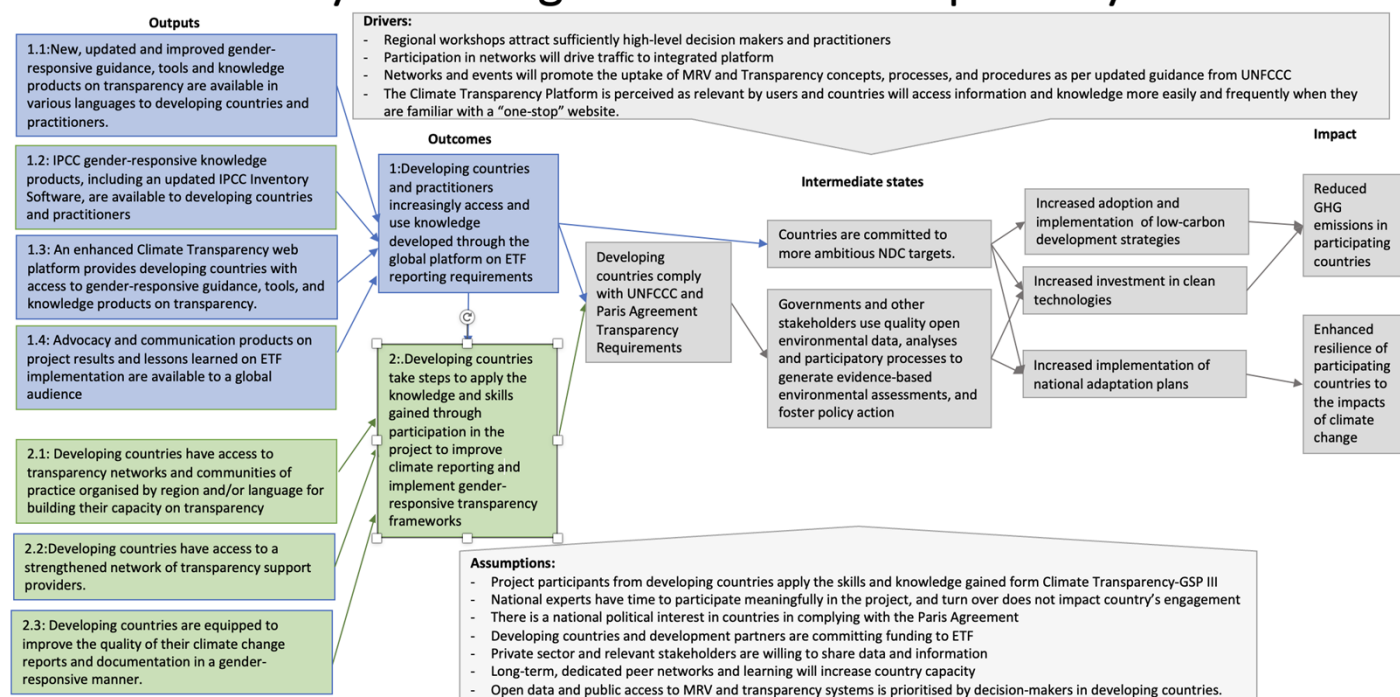


Figure 2. Theory Of Change Climate Transparency – GSP III [1]<sup>3</sup>

[1] This ToC draws on the reconstructed ToC prepared by the mid-term reviewer of the CBIT IIA and IIB projects.

The Climate Transparency-GSP III project proposes the following components to attain the transformation that the project aims to achieve. **Component 1** will develop, update, share and store knowledge products on transparency through the Climate Transparency Platform. **Component 2** will build capacity through enhanced networks and targeted in-country support.

### Component 1: Knowledge development, storage and diffusion

This component aims to generate new and updated global knowledge on Transparency and share it to developing countries and practitioners through the Global Transparency Platform.

**Outcome 1:** Developing countries and practitioners increasingly access and use knowledge developed through the global platform on ETF reporting requirements.

**Barrier addressed:** B1. Developing countries and practitioners have a continuous need to access up-to-date and integrated knowledge, information, good practices, lessons learned and tools for developing national climate transparency systems and meeting ETF reporting requirements.

| Output | Title  |
|--------|--|
| 1.1    | New, updated and improved gender-responsive guidance, tools and knowledge products on transparency are available in various languages to developing countries and practitioners. |

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.2 | IPCC gender-responsive knowledge products, including an updated IPCC Inventory Software, are available to developing countries and practitioners.                 |
| 1.3 | An enhanced Climate Transparency Platform provides developing countries with access to gender-responsive guidance, tools, and knowledge products on transparency. |
| 1.4 | Advocacy and communication products on project results and lessons learned on ETF implementation are available to a global audience                               |

Through Output 1.1, Climate Transparency-GSP III will develop new, updated, and improved knowledge products on transparency, supported by a broad array of experts from different regions, thus expanding the technical expertise currently mobilized in CBIT-GSP Phase II. As guidance from the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement evolves based on further climate change negotiations, the project will apply an adaptive approach, to address any upcoming issues related to Article 13 implementation as they arise. Information on gender-responsive aspects and required updates will be further developed at PPG. A flexible approach will be adopted to respond to new demands and integrate evolving guidance.

The knowledge products to be delivered will include:

- New, updated, and improved gender-responsive guidance, tools, and other knowledge products on climate transparency, including training modules, drawing upon, inter alia, technical expert reviews of BTRs, CBIT project reports and evaluations, and gaps and needs assessments.
- New, updated, and improved guidance and knowledge products on gender-responsive transparency frameworks (updating the Gender Responsive Biennial Transparency Reports Toolkit if and where needed).
- Digital technology solutions for ETF systems, to deliver model solutions that can be adapted and replicated by countries so that they can more effectively, efficiently and rapidly submit transparency reports to the UNFCCC.
- Tailored LDCs/SIDS knowledge products, considering climate vulnerabilities and special circumstances.
- Curricula for executive training and master's programmes, including training of trainers' courses, which could be adopted by universities and other relevant institutions. Examples of such initiatives is an initiative by the IPCC TFI TSU with ICAT for training of trainers on the IPCC Inventory Software.

Under Output 1.2, The IPCC Inventory Software and its interoperability with the UNFCCC ETF reporting tool is a good example of an automated and integrated process that supports quality of information, minimizes the burden and supplements capacity at the highest level; its maintenance and further development to enhance its user-friendliness and capacity is supported. Through Output 1.2, the IPCC Inventory Software for estimation of anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals will be maintained and updated to respond to the needs of developing countries for estimating and reporting national inventories, tracking mitigation actions and preparing BTRs for submission to the UNFCCC. Recognizing the growing needs of countries, and the technical limitations of the current Software infrastructure, this project will contribute to the migration of the Software to a new platform with enhanced compatibility with operative systems (Windows OS, MacOS, Linux) and enhanced capacity in data handling, without interruption to current users. Knowledge products developed to support use of the Software will be made available. Updates to the Software will consider gender-disaggregated data collection and gender-responsive methodologies, where applicable. In addition, beta testing teams will include women and those seeking to gather and interpret gender-specific data.

Under Output 1.3, the existing Climate Transparency Platform will be further enhanced (version 2.0) to make it a more intuitive and interactive knowledge management and coordination mechanism, comprising a repository of transparency information, CBIT projects data, and online training courses. Knowledge and communication products on transparency developed under Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 above will be shared and stored through the platform. Knowledge management and learning will be improved in Climate Transparency GSP-III, for example, through the enhancement and further dissemination of the pool of experts' area in the Platform, as well as through the potential creation of a dedicated SIDS/LDCs menu (to be further assessed at PPG stage).

The Climate Transparency Platform is an inclusive platform for the wider transparency community and support providers. Discussions are currently underway to reduce the visibility of CBIT-GSP on the platform while not removing it completely as an important support provider within the climate transparency support landscape. To date, considerable efforts and resources have been undertaken and spent to increase the functionality of the platform as a support coordination tool, notably through the "Agency Coordination" function with a collective calendar and lists of upcoming publications, a message board and the request for support function. These functions responded to needs identified by the transparency support community.

As a next step, new consultations with support providers are planned for phase IIB to understand their needs and how the platform can respond to that, which can be further incorporated in the CEO Endorsement document for Climate Transparency-GSP III. To that end, the establishment of a dedicated task team with representatives from support

providers is envisioned as an inclusive team to drive the discussions and developments on the support coordination forward. Furthermore, one-on-one sessions with support providers will continue to explain the different functionalities, provide important updates as applicable and discuss how the platform can be utilized better. It is also envisioned to improve the collaborative functions of the platform to make them more user-friendly, interactive and inviting. The project team members will continue to reach out to national CBIT project focal points to engage them from the launch of their project, ensuring that they are aware and make use of the platform.

Output 1.4 will disseminate advocacy and communication products on project results and lessons learned on ETF implementation (policy briefs, newsletters, etc.) to strengthen project outreach. This output will comprise gender-responsive stakeholder engagement and communication activities, for ensuring effective ownership of the transition to the ETF by project beneficiaries, including through consultation and engagement of gender-based organizations. As the project is focused on improving the capacity of governments to undertake transparency obligations, it doesn't seek to engage the private sector directly. Nevertheless, the private sector will be indirectly engaged through the dissemination of guidance, methodologies and tools for engaging the private sector in the development of national transparency frameworks and in the preparation of climate reports (as data providers, members of project steering and Climate Change committees, key stakeholders consulted and trained at the country level, as well as potential investors).

## Component 2: Building capacity to apply knowledge on climate transparency.

This component aims to build developing countries' capacity to apply the global knowledge on transparency generated through component 1.

Outcome 2: Developing countries take concrete steps to apply the knowledge and skills gained through participation in the project to improve climate reporting and implement gender-responsive transparency frameworks.

Barrier addressed: B2. Developing countries lack coordinated opportunities to engage in peer-learning, connect with international/regional experts and access institutionalized training on transparency to address their specific gaps and needs in gender-responsive ETF implementation.

| Output | Title  |
|--------|--|
| 2.1    | Developing countries have access to transparency networks and communities of practice organised by region and/or language for building their capacity on transparency. |
| 2.2    | Developing countries have access to a strengthened network of transparency support providers.  |
| 2.3    | Developing countries are equipped to improve the quality of their climate change reports and enhanced transparency frameworks in a gender-responsive manner.           |

Under Outcome 2, the project will support countries to strengthen their capacities for ETF implementation, which is expected to enable them to adjust their outputs in response to evolving reporting requirements. The Climate Transparency-GSP III will engage a wide pool of experts' services to support training and improve learning opportunities offered to countries. Gender mainstreaming will be fostered through workshops on gender-responsive transparency frameworks and use of the Gender Responsive Biennial Transparency Reports Toolkit. In addition, women are targeted as 50 percent of beneficiaries in project capacity-building activities (as per core indicator 11: number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender).

Gender mainstreaming will be fostered through workshops on gender-responsive transparency frameworks and use of the Gender Responsive Biennial Transparency Reports Toolkit. In addition, women are targeted as 50 percent of beneficiaries in project capacity-building activities (as per core indicator 11: number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender).

In Output 2.1, Transparency Networks organised by region and/or language will enhance the support provided to developing countries. Comprehensive capacity needs assessments vis-à-vis ETF implementation will continue to be undertaken for all countries in the different networks aiming to identify capacity-building priorities and develop workplans for the networks' operation. Training will be provided in different formats such as through in-person global training events/workshops on transparency; regional and country group training; cross-regional trainings for SIDS / LDCs; training of trainers' courses, in collaboration with universities, academic institutions, NGOs, regional entities and transparency partners. Technical advice will be provided to countries, through the transparency networks, on the use of the IPCC Inventory Software for estimating GHG emissions and removals consistent with relevant IPCC Guidelines and UNFCCC requirements, and for tracking progress of NDC mitigation actions under the Paris Agreement. Gender-balance will be sought in the training activities, as women are expected to provide input to the training materials and to deliver capacity building sessions. In addition, the project team will ensure that gender aspects are sufficiently covered in training materials

**and sessions.** To promote continuity and sustainability in capacity-building, “onboarding” support will be provided to new participants, as needed, through resources available on the Platform and action by Transparency Network coordinators.

In addition, peer exchange will be organized in various modalities, **including in-person and virtual workshops and webinars for peer-to-peer learning through the transparency networks.** Learning opportunities for the climate transparency community will be further promoted through efforts to establish a network with universities and technical institutions to foster institutionalized training and learning on transparency at the country level. **Regional distribution will be considered, and the most appropriate means of engagement will be assessed and confirmed during the PPG phase.**

The private sector will be indirectly engaged as a result of peer exchange activities in the sense that lessons learned, as well as best practices shared by national GEF-CBIT projects, will address activities undertaken for private sector engagement in the tracking of mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as in the identification of investment priorities for enhanced climate action. Moreover, the private sector will be engaged through the support of governments, which invite private sector representatives to participate in project activities. Modes of participation of the private sector include consultants or consultancy firms benefitting from training; data providers from the private sector participating in training events; private sector representatives benefitting from capacity-building activities on data sharing agreements (upon invitation by governments). More indirectly, the private sector is concerned in the following: knowledge sharing in the context of peer-exchange activities, in which the private sector is considered a relevant actor involved in national climate reporting or GEF-CBIT project countries; dissemination of methodologies and tools for engaging the private sector; e.g., in ETFs and in national GHG inventories using IPCC 2006 guidelines (such as industry surveys for activity data); and knowledge sharing by countries on the identification of investment priorities for climate change actions.

LDCs and SIDS countries have been showing a high interest to meet reporting requirements. Acknowledging the need for additional support considering their unique circumstances and flexibility provisions, at the PPG phase of Climate Transparency - GSP III, the creation of additional networks for SIDS and LDCs and a specific mechanism for engaging with these groups of countries will be considered for inclusion in the scope of activities, depending on resources available and stakeholders' consultation processes.

The programme will undertake the mapping of available expertise per region and technical area to expand the roster of vetted international and regional transparency experts who can provide tailored technical assistance when needed; it will thus provide expert-matching support, connecting countries with specialists based on their unique transparency needs.

Output 2.2 will complement these developments **by facilitating online interactions and events** between stakeholders (developing countries, implementing agencies, support providers, UNFCCC and other initiatives supporting ETF processes), with the aim of strengthening the network of transparency support providers. **These events will include in-person annual meetings of the Global Transparency Forum.** Substantive support provided to stakeholders, including transparency support providers, will include use of the IPCC Inventory Software for estimating GHG inventories and tracking progress of NDC mitigation actions under the Paris Agreement.

Stakeholder collaboration inside the climate transparency community will allow the project to mobilize experts and better respond to emerging elements in the climate policy landscape. **CBIT-GSP already engages with complimentary initiatives in various ways, including webinars, regional trainings, and in-country support.** The programme heavily relies on collaboration and establishing synergies with ongoing initiatives such as ICAT, PATPA, and UNDP's Climate Promise initiative. **Both CBIT- AFOLU+ and CBIT forest have access to the network coordinators, and they use the coordinators to also disseminate information.** In addition, both projects participate in the annual network meetings and interact with countries. This will continue and be enhanced under the proposed project.

Output 2.3 will focus on providing targeted support to developing countries upon request. This output seeks to address in-country challenges, including those related to engaging services of international and regional experts, to provide the needed training in undertaking their transparency work and reporting. **To ensure that the targeted support for developing countries is distinct and complementary to existing CBIT projects and other initiatives assisted by support providers, a coordination mechanism will be established to screen on-going support upon receipt of the request.** Network coordinators will assess and help countries to clearly define gaps and support needed. This will involve consultations between key stakeholders, including national governments and international support providers, as applicable, to align efforts and avoid duplication. Additionally, existing Group of Friends (GoF) network and the tracking system of all climate change-related support and initiatives will be used to ensure that the assistance is additive and fills gaps where necessary. Each Implementing Agency will be asked to work closely with the respective national Enabling Activities (EAs)/CBITs teams and the Climate Transparency-GSP III team to identify resources to cover the cost of the support services to be provided. The Climate Transparency-GSP III will therefore mobilize its technical expertise and facilitate the availability of experts in different regions to provide support services as requested. Such technical assistance will include:



- Reviewing draft climate change reporting and documentation (including on-demand reviews by gender experts of gender-related aspects of BTRs and national communications).
- Advising on how to take forward recommendations from technical expert reviews of BTRs under UNFCCC.
- Providing one-on-one trainings to address gaps and needs identified and conduct improvement plans.
- Providing support to countries to better understand methodologies and tools specific to tracking progress of NDC targets in the BTR, thereby improving its alignment to their NDC updating processes, including through the use of the IPCC Inventory Software.

### Component 3: Project monitoring and evaluation

In this component, project monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with GEF, UNDP and UNEP policies, as applicable. Furthermore, the project will take on a coordination role and collaborate with GEF Implementing Agencies to consolidate and analyze results from the preparation of Transparency reports, as well as the challenges and support needs identified by the GEF Implementing Agencies through the annual NC-BUR-BTR status surveys.

| Output | Title  |
|--------|--|
| 3.1    | Monitoring and evaluation products are delivered |

### Global environment benefits

As a global project, it will not lead directly to global environmental benefits. The project is an 'enabler' which will build the capacity of developing countries to implement the Paris Agreement ETF. Through this project, developing countries will increase their knowledge and capacity to implement enhanced transparency frameworks. Progress in climate reporting under the Paris Agreement will imply increase capacity to report progress on their NDCs, thus enabling the setting of more ambitious NDC targets and ultimately leading to reduced GHG emissions. At the global level, the inputs provided by BTRs to the Global Stocktake will enable the assessment of collective progress and impact, which in turn will lead to stronger climate action. Furthermore, countries are expected to gain and apply an enhanced capacity for the monitoring, evaluation and reporting of adaptation, vulnerabilities and climate change impacts, which will lead to a better collective assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation, and ultimately to enhanced adaptation action and resilience, generating adaptation-related benefits, as well as other global environmental co-benefits.

### Socio-economic benefits

As a global support project, it is not easy to attribute direct socioeconomic benefits to its activities to create global knowledge and build national capacity. However, it is envisioned that the global project will lead to the following socioeconomic benefits at the country level, as an indirect consequence (or intermediate state) of the project:

Under Outcome 1 of the project, the Climate Transparency Platform will continue to provide information, tools and methodologies, streamlining support and optimizing available resources. Countries that make use of such resources may thus benefit from a more efficient use of both internal public funds and external funding. Moreover, the uptake of knowledge on climate transparency made available through the Platform may lead to efficiencies as a result of tracking climate actions and increased adoption of policies with low-carbon benefits.

Under Outcome 2 of the project, countries will build capacity to comply with UNFCCC and ETF requirements under the Paris Agreement. As countries take concrete steps to establish or improve their transparency frameworks, they will be able to identify cost-effective mitigation and adaptation measures and to better understand co-benefits, including the socio-economic benefits of climate action. Through the increased adoption and implementation of low-carbon development strategies, investments in clean technologies, and implementation of national adaptation plans, at the level of desired impact, developing countries may achieve reduced GHG emissions as well as enhance their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

### Innovativeness

Climate Transparency-GSP III will continue to apply and improve the innovative multi-level approach already present in CBIT-GSP Phase II that provides a unified structure to support developing country parties with a “one-stop shop” for climate transparency. Under this proposed Phase III, innovative aspects are noteworthy:

- Development of knowledge products on climate transparency that provide guidance on addressing recommendations from technical expert reviews of BTRs and implementing related improvement plans.
- Enhanced and coordinated support for use of the IPCC Inventory Software among interested countries to better align national GHG inventories and NDC tracking.
- Development of curricula for executive training and master's programmes that could be adopted by universities and other relevant institutions; and establishment of a network with universities and technical institutions to foster institutionalized training and learning on transparency at the country level.
- Development of digital technology solutions for ETF systems, to deliver model solutions that can be adapted and replicated by countries.
- Innovative support to SIDS and LDCs through tailored knowledge products, considering climate vulnerabilities and special circumstances, tailored cross-regional trainings, cross-regional SIDS / LDCs peer-exchange on transparency and a dedicated SIDS/LDCs menu in the Climate Transparency Platform.
- Engagement of a wide pool of experts' services to support training and development of knowledge products.

The Climate Transparency-GSP III project has strong potential for scale-up and sustainability due to its comprehensive approach in addressing the needs of developing countries in climate transparency. The project's design integrates multiple components that focus on knowledge development, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, all of which are crucial for ensuring long-term impact.

#### Potential for Scale-Up:

- **Global Knowledge Platform:** The enhancement of the Climate Transparency Platform will provide an intuitive, centralized resource that can be continuously updated with new tools, knowledge products, and digital solutions for ETF systems. This platform has the capacity to expand its user base to include an increasing number of stakeholders, adapting to evolving climate transparency requirements and create an interactive online space for knowledge and experience sharing.
- **Regional and Peer Learning Networks:** The establishment of regional and language-based networks, combined with peer exchange programs and institutional collaborations, will allow for the sharing of best practices and learning across a wide variety of stakeholders. These networks can grow by identifying new areas for cooperation, and integrating support provider organizations, thereby amplifying the project's reach and impact.
- **Integration with Local Capacity Development:** By linking with local and regional experts, universities, and institutions, the project builds a sustainable model of localized expertise that can continue to operate independently post-project, ensuring that knowledge and skills continue to grow even after the project's completion.

#### Sustainability:

- **Institutionalizing Training and Knowledge:** The project's integration of curricula into academic institutions and training programs ensures that the knowledge generated is institutionalized, making it part of ongoing educational efforts on climate transparency. This will support creation of a sustained supply of skilled professionals to support transparency efforts globally.
- **Gender-Responsive Transparency:** By ensuring gender-responsive transparency frameworks and targeting a balanced number of male and female participants, the project fosters inclusive development, which strengthens the ownership of climate transparency efforts among diverse communities, promoting long-term engagement and success.
- **Continuous Expert Support and Peer Learning:** The project promotes sustainability through its expert-matching system, regional communities of practice, and ongoing peer exchange activities, which foster long-term collaboration and capacity enhancement among stakeholders.

#### Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

UNEP and UNDP will be the GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs) and accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. UNEP will serve as the lead agency of the project, including for the submission and communication with the GEF Secretariat. The roles of the two agencies in project coordination and project components and outputs will be determined at PPG stage. UNEP and UNDP will ensure that this GEF project complements and builds synergies with ongoing initiatives related to climate transparency described in the baseline such as GEF-funded national NCs, BTRs, CBIT projects, as well strengthen coordination with transparency players, such as UNFCCC, CGE, IPCC TFI TSU, ICAT, PATPA, and FAO.

UNEP-CCC and UNDP have executed different phases of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP). Both entities have long-standing experience on technical matters related to climate transparency and Article 13, with technical experts from different regions, with different skills sets. The suitability and selection of the executing agenc(ies) will be done at PPG phase keeping in mind the need to such entities to have technical expertise, experience, knowledge, staffing capabilities, and preferably positive evaluation results of previous initiatives.

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

|               | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Female</b> | 750                      |                                      |                          |                         |
| <b>Male</b>   | 750                      |                                      |                          |                         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1500</b>              | <b>0</b>                             | <b>0</b>                 | <b>0</b>                |

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Project beneficiaries were calculated to be 1500 people who will receive support for transparency and reporting from project outputs and activities. This was then divided between male and female beneficiaries based on equal participation of men and women. Direct beneficiaries are understood as individuals in non-Annex I / developing countries receiving nonmonetary, capacity support through access to the unified website and its materials as well as participation in project events such as annual meetings, COP side events and other global events, regional peer-exchange and training workshops, one-on-one training events at the country level, training of trainers, as well as online events such as webinars.

The project targets were defined by extrapolating from information on previous participation in CBIT-GSP Phase II events, project beneficiaries tracking available in the Climate Transparency Platform, and estimates of the numbers of existing and new country-level CBIT projects. The estimates assume continued participation from existing CBIT project countries. The shorter implementation timeline of Transparency-GSP III, as compared to CBIT-GSP Phase II, justifies a lower target number of people benefiting from the project. The final target will be consulted and confirmed during PPG phase.

\* Actual baseline in April 2025, as available at the Climate Transparency Platform: project beneficiaries 1207, of which 46% were female, 50% male and 6% others.



## Key Risks

|                          | Rating   | Explanation of risk and mitigation measures   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| CONTEXT                  |          |   |
| Climate                  | Low      | <p>Risk: Extreme climate events affect in-person meetings and data storage facilities and, indirectly, fiscal capacity of governments to support transparency activities.</p> <p>PPG mitigation strategy: Develop project workplan considering possible constraints on travel and in-person meetings and considering on-line or remote learning and communication options where appropriate.</p> <p>Project execution mitigation strategy: Capacity support to countries on transparency issues will include guidance on data storage and archiving aiming to mitigate climate risks. Strengthened capacity for climate reporting will help developed country governments to use limited resources more efficiently.</p>  |
| Environmental and Social | Low      | <p>Risk: Social: MRV systems design using proprietary software or restricted access to data exacerbates inequalities in access to information, especially access to environmental information relevant for decision-making. Gender norms in certain participating countries limit women's access to project-related resources and opportunities. Environment: Support provided under this project will be focused on climate data collection, compilation, curation, communication and management through climate transparency systems. Thus, it will not involve any recommendations on land use, ecosystems, resource management, infrastructure, etc. PPG mitigation strategy: Undertake stakeholder consultations to understand challenges and co-design project deliverables with stakeholders to ensure buy-in and ownership of project activities. Design outputs 1.1 and 1.2 so that the knowledge products developed and disseminated incorporate a rights-based approach to access to environmental information and specify principles guiding this work. Include in project design of component 2 that technical support provided will promote open data, non-proprietary software, and public access to data and information. Consider means of promoting women participation in project activities while designing the Gender Action Plan (GAP). Project execution mitigation strategy: Carry out stakeholder engagement activities and collect feedback from project beneficiaries through surveys and other means. Adjust project deliverables as required based on stakeholder consultations.</p> |
| Political and Governance | Moderate | <p>Risk: High turnover of participants due to high turnover of political appointees and civil servants in participating countries. PPG mitigation strategy: Develop the work plan so that training and peer-exchange events take place regularly throughout the project implementation period, thus exposing new participants to resources and contacts without a long waiting period. Planning for training of trainers' activities in project design. Project execution mitigation strategy: Making knowledge products and information on transparency available</p>  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | through the Platform in various regional languages will ease transition in case of experts and project beneficiaries being replaced. Provide “onboarding” support to new participants, as needed, through resources available on the Platform and action by Transparency Network coordinators. Providing training of trainers to build institutional capacity. |
|--|--|--|

#### INNOVATION

|                              |     |   |
|------------------------------|-----|---|
| Institutional and Policy     | Low | Risk: Potential misalignment between Climate Transparency-GSP III activities and national strategies and policies could hamper the uptake of project outputs in national frameworks. This could lead to policy uncertainty in beneficiary countries and a lack of project progress and impact. PPG mitigation strategy: Undertake broad consultations with key stakeholders to better understand current challenges faced by developing country Parties. Project planning will include close collaboration with national CBIT and BTR projects, as well as Implementing Agencies. Project execution mitigation strategy: Continuously collect feedback from project beneficiaries to provide support considering their national circumstances.  |
| Technological                | Low | Risk: Risks associated with the development and maintenance of digital platforms for knowledge and information sharing. Challenges associated with implementing digital tools and systems to accurately collect, manage and report climate data and information. PPG mitigation strategy: Design the different outputs and deliverables so that data security is prioritized, and the maintenance of the Climate Transparency Platform is appropriately managed. Project execution mitigation strategy: To address the technological risks, the project will: maintain high levels of data security and privacy, to protect against unauthorized access and data breaches; invest in capacity building of its stakeholders, providing them with the necessary training and support to effectively use digital tools disseminated. |
| Financial and Business Model | Low | Risk: A financial crisis affects developing countries capacities to engage in project capacity-building activities. PPG mitigation strategy: Co-design the project activities in coordination and consultation with other support providers and initiatives to promote efficiency and maximize opportunities for developing countries to have costs covered for participation in capacity-building activities. Project execution mitigation strategy: Regularly track project progress vis-à-vis macroeconomic challenges and adjust work plan as needed to ensure that participation in project activities don't represent a financial burden to countries.  |

#### EXECUTION

|           |     |   |
|-----------|-----|---|
| Capacity  | Low | No risk perceived. UNEP-CCC and UNDP Climate Hub have demonstrated high institutional capacity for managing the execution of GEF projects during previous phases of global CBIT and GSP projects. |
| Fiduciary | Low | No risk perceived. UNEP-CCC and UNDP Climate Hub have demonstrated high fiduciary capacity for managing the execution of GEF projects during previous phases of global CBIT and GSP projects.     |

|                     |     |  |
|---------------------|-----|--|
| Stakeholder         | Low | Risk: Insufficient stakeholder engagement leads to a lack of buy-in, reducing project effectiveness. Regional and sub-regional workshops fail to attract sufficiently high-level decision- makers and practitioners (moderate). The integrated platform is not perceived as relevant by users and fails to maintain site traffic (low). Experts in participating countries don't have sufficient time availability to participate in the networks and information exchanges supported by the project (moderate). PPG mitigation strategy: Conduct broad stakeholder consultations to undertake a co-design of project deliverables that promote ownership of project activities. Project execution mitigation strategy: Disseminate communication and outreach materials; promote broader participation in Network activities; disseminate successful case examples of beneficiary countries which applied received support; coordinate with other transparency initiatives to maximize efficiency in the offer of peer-exchange and training opportunities; highlight the critical role of Network coordinators in contributing to ease the workload of beneficiary country experts by providing solutions for climate transparency frameworks that concurrently respond to multiple reporting commitments. Employ technology solutions to minimize the time burden of sharing information. |
| Other               |     |  |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low | This is rated as a low-risk project (as per Attachment 1- SRIF). It requires good practice approach and no separate safeguard management plan.   |

### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

#### **GEF-8 alignment**

This project is aligned with the GEF-8 programming directions climate change focal area strategy, Pillar II, *foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies*; Objective 2.1: *Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT*. In particular, the project is aligned with paragraphs 495 and 496 of Objective 2.1. [\[3\]<sup>4</sup>](#)

This project proposal is consistent with the Paris Agreement, and with national priorities, such as national communications, BTRs, and Nationally Determined Contributions, as it will support countries in obtaining the necessary capacities and tools to track progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more specifically, NDCs. Support for capacity strengthening related to monitoring and tracking progress on key climate-related indicators will also support data collection and analysis that can in turn inform other policy exercises, such as Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-term strategies (LTS), and others.

Internally, for UNEP this project is consistent with its Science and Transparency Programme Cooperation Project and aligns with UNEP's 2022-2025 Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work (PoW), contributing to achieve the Climate Stability outcome 1C: - *'State and non-state actors adopt the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) arrangements under the Paris Agreement'*. It will directly support UNEP in implementing its PoW direct outcomes 1.1 *Polymaking and decision making for climate action are informed by the latest science-based analysis and data generation* and 1.3. *Transparency and accountability of government and non-government climate action, including from the private sector and the financial community, are strengthened*. Under the climate action thematic subprogramme, the relevant indicator is iii. *Number of national, subnational and private-sector actors, including from informal sector, reporting under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris Agreement with UNEP support*. The foundational Science – Policy and Environmental Governance Subprogrammes also contribute to such outcomes. The following Science-Policy indicators apply to this project: i. *Number of countries and national, regional, and subnational authorities that, as a result of UNEP support, have strengthened their capacity to develop sound environmental and climate data, statistics, scientific assessments, and early warning systems*; and ii. *Number of relevant global, regional, and national forums, institutions, and Governments using data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning and foresight systems provided by UNEP for catalyzing policymaking and action*; as well as the Environmental Governance indicator iv. *Number of entities at the national, regional or global levels that UNEP has supported in developing integrated approaches and tools for enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies for the coherent implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements*.

On UNDP side, the project is aligned with UNDP's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and the Climate Promise Initiative, an umbrella initiative that encompasses all of UNDP's support to countries on NDCs. UNDP is currently transitioning from the initial Climate Promise, focused on NDC enhancement, into the next phase, a broader effort to focus on NDC implementation and alignment with long-term net-zero and climate-resilient pathways. While support on data and transparency was a key component of the first phase (i.e. Service Line 5: Monitor Progress and Strengthen Transparency), it will continue to be a strong focus of the new Climate Promise 2025. In addition, this proposal directly links up with UNDP's ongoing portfolio of work on transparency, including support on CBIT, NAPs, SCALA, NCs, BURs, and more recently on BTRs, among others. UNDP has decades-long experience with GEF's EAs and CBIT, as a key partner of choice and is currently supporting over 70 countries to access GEF funds to report to the UNFCCC and build capacities for ETF. The work funded under this proposal will build on the successful experience and lessons learnt generated by UNDP's long track record on transparency,

This project will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13. The platform will serve as an underlying mechanism for tracking progress towards combatting Climate Change (SDG 13) and will contribute to the specific target 13.3 *Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning* and indicator 13.3.2 *Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions*.

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[3] [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/GEF\\_R.08\\_29\\_Rev.01\\_GEF8\\_Programming\\_Directions.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-04/GEF_R.08_29_Rev.01_GEF8_Programming_Directions.pdf)

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

## Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

### Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

### Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

This document has been prepared through extensive consultation with representatives of UNEP-CCC. Consultations were also held with key actors involved in CBIT-GSP, according to the list below:

| Institutions            | Description   | Names of contact  | Consultations                            |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| UNEP CBIT Task managers | Implementing Agency. Managers responsible for national CBIT projects implemented by UNEP.   | Julien Lheureux, Sudhir Sharma, Federico Alejandro Geli | 05/2024                                  |
| UNFCCC secretariat      | The UNFCCC and its secretariat play important roles in project implementation: provider of capacity-building; exchanging information with the project (especially through the CGE); facilitating the implementation of the Convention. Responsible for supporting the implementation of COP decisions.<br><br>PSC member. | Jigme – Manager of the Transparency Division            | 06/2024<br><br>(and on-going since then) |
| GEF secretariat         | The GEF supports capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT; and supports relevant Convention obligations and enabling activities. Other roles include control over disbursements to the project as well as approval of spending.<br><br>PSC member.                             | Esteban Bermúdez  | 07/2024 (and on-going since then)        |

| Institutions   | Description  | Names of contact  | Consultations                     |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| UNEP regional offices  | <p>UNEP Regional Development Coordinator Officers for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Central Asia.</p> <p>Lead UNEP's engagement with the UN Development System at regional and country levels. UNEP's Regional Offices support environmental governance institutions and processes and engage a broad range of partners on multilateral environmental agreements and sustainability programs and projects in response to national, sub-regional and regional needs and priorities.</p> | <p>Alexander Mangwiro</p> <p>María Elena Zúñiga Barrientos</p> <p>Mijke Hertoghs</p> <p>Jonathan Gilman</p>                 | 06/2024                           |
| CBIT-GSP II team (UNEP-CCC)  | <p>UNEP-CCC is the Executing Agency of CBIT-GSP Phase II. Responsible for project execution, control over financial resources. It houses the Project Management Unit (PMU) and recruits the Project Coordinator and team.</p> <p>PSC member.</p>   | <p>Fatima-Zahra Taibi</p> <p>Khetsiwe Khumalo</p> <p>Denis Desgain</p>  | 05/2024 (and on-going since then) |
| UNDP Climate Promise/Enhancing Climate Transparency Project                                      | The Enhancing Climate Transparency (ECT) project, funded by the Government of Belgium, aims to provide comprehensive capacity building support on climate data and transparency to the francophone and lusophone developing countries and is working closely with the CBIT-GSP.  | <p>Richemond Assie</p> <p>Moussa Diop</p> <p>Gonçalo Cavalheiro</p>   | 11/2024 and on-going since then   |
| UNDP Senior/Regional Technical Advisors for Climate Change Enabling Activities and CBIT projects | Implementing Agency. Technical team responsible for the oversight of the CC EAs and CBIT projects implemented by UNDP.   | <p>Claudia Ortiz</p> <p>Eva Huttova</p> <p>Snezana Dragojevic</p> <p>Patricia Velasco</p> <p>Thania Eloina Felix Canedo</p> | 11/2024 and on-going since then   |
| IPCC TFI, through its Technical Support Unit   | It develops and refines internationally agreed methodology and software for the calculation and reporting of national GHG emissions and removals; and encourages the widespread use of this methodology by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the UNFCCC.   | <p>Takeshi Enoki,</p> <p>Sandro Federici, Lisa Hanle</p>  | 03/2025 and on-going since then   |

A broader list of stakeholders and general guidelines for a stakeholder engagement plan to be developed in the project preparation phase, including information on grievance redress mechanism, are available in Attachment 3.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

## Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in the section B project description?

Yes

## Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

| PIF | CEO<br>Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----|
| Low |                             |     |    |

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/<br>Regional/<br>Global | Focal Area     | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non-Grant | GEF Project Grant(\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total GEF Financing (\$) |
|------------|------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| UNEP       | GET        | Global                          | Climate Change | CBIT Set-Aside       | Grant             | 5,400,000.00          | 513,000.00     | 5,913,000.00             |
| UNDP       | GET        | Global                          | Climate Change | CBIT Set-Aside       | Grant             | 3,600,000.00          | 342,000.00     | 3,942,000.00             |



|                          |  |              |            |              |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Total GEF Resources (\$) |  | 9,000,000.00 | 855,000.00 | 9,855,000.00 |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|------------|--------------|

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

145000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

13775

| GEF Agency            | Trust Fund | Country/<br>Regional/<br>Global | Focal Area        | Programming<br>of Funds | Grant /<br>Non-Grant | PPG(\$)    | Agency<br>Fee(\$) | Total PPG<br>Funding(\$) |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| UNEP                  | GET        | Global                          | Climate<br>Change | CBIT Set-<br>Aside      | Grant                | 85,000.00  | 8,075.00          | 93,075.00                |
| UNDP                  | GET        | Global                          | Climate<br>Change | CBIT Set-<br>Aside      | Grant                | 60,000.00  | 5,700.00          | 65,700.00                |
| Total PPG Amount (\$) |            |                                 |                   |                         |                      | 145,000.00 | 13,775.00         | 158,775.00               |

Please provide justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

| GEF Agency          | Trust Fund | Country/<br>Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Sources of Funds | Total(\$) |
|---------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| Total GEF Resources |            |                              |            |                  | 0.00      |

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Co-financing(\$) |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| CCM-CBIT               | GET        | 9,000,000.00              | 1100000          |
| Total Project Cost     |            | 9,000,000.00              | 1,100,000.00     |

### Indicative Co-financing



| Sources of Co-financing   | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized   | Amount(\$)          |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| GEF Agency                | UNEP                 | In-kind              | Recurrent expenditures | 600000              |
| GEF Agency                | UNDP                 | In-kind              | Recurrent expenditures | 500000              |
| <b>Total Co-financing</b> |                      |                      |                        | <b>1,100,000.00</b> |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

| GEF Agency Type        | Name                    | Date      | Project Contact Person | Phone           | Email                   |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | Ersin Esen (UNEP)       | 2/26/2025 |                        | +41 22 917 8196 | ersin.esen@un.org       |
| GEF Agency Coordinator | Nancy Bennet (UNDP)     | 2/26/2025 |                        | +1 917 7746577  | nancy.bennet@undp.org   |
| Project Coordinator    | Asher Lessels (UNEP)    | 2/22/2025 |                        | +33 759533222   | asher.lessels@un.org    |
| Project Coordinator    | Eva Huttova (UNDP)      | 2/22/2025 |                        | +42 1903180679  | eva.huttova@undp.org    |
| Project Coordinator    | Claudia Ortiz (UNDP)    | 2/22/2025 |                        | +1 914 6123067  | claudia.ortiz@undp.org  |
| Project Coordinator    | Suzanne Lekoyiet (UNEP) | 2/21/2025 |                        | +254 207623256  | suzanne.lekoyiet@un.org |

### Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

| Name | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|------|----------|----------|-------------------|
|------|----------|----------|-------------------|

## ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

N/A

## ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

|       |
|-------|
| Title |
|-------|

Attach-1-SRIF-Transparency-GSPIII-20250225

#### ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

| Climate Change Mitigation | Climate Change Adaptation | Biodiversity      | Land Degradation  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Principal Objective 2     | Significant Objective 1   | No Contribution 0 | No Contribution 0 |

#### ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

| Level 1                          | Level 2   | Level 3                       | Level 4                     |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Influencing Models               | Strengthen institutional capacity/decision-making | -                             | -                           |
|                                  | Convene multi-stakeholder alliances               | -                             | -                           |
|                                  |   | -                             | -                           |
| Stakeholders                     | Knowledge and learning                            | -                             | -                           |
|                                  | Civil society                                     | Academia                      | -                           |
|                                  | Stakeholder engagement                            | -                             | -                           |
| Capacity, Knowledge and Research | Capacity Development                              | -                             | -                           |
|                                  | Knowledge Generation and Exchange                 |                               |                             |
| Gender Equality                  | Gender mainstreaming                              | Sex-disaggregated indicators  | -                           |
|                                  | Gender results areas                              | -                             | -                           |
| Focal Area / Theme               | Climate change                                    | Climate change mitigation     | -                           |
|                                  |   | Climate finance (Rio markers) | Climate Change Mitigation 2 |
|                                  |   |                               | Climate Change Adaptation 1 |