

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement

Region	GEF Project ID
Moldova	11659
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Moldova	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
FAO	745545
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Climate Change	6/24/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation, Training, Capacity Development, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate finance, Climate Change Mitigation, Financing, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	36
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
1,776,484.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
168,766.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
1,945,250.00	900,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
50,000.00	4,750.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

54,750.00

2,000,000.00

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)

2. The project objective is to support the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter referred to as “Moldova”) to meet the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) requirements for action and support, as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, by strengthening institutional and technical capacity of key stakeholders (government institutions at national, subnational and local levels, academia, private sector, NGOs, women associations and vulnerable groups) and equipping them with necessary tools, climate skills and knowledge, with a focus on integrating gender considerations throughout the process. It is comprised of four components and corresponding outcomes and outputs. The four key proposed components of the project are as follows:

- 1) Strengthening Institutional arrangements, capacities and information management systems to support ETF compliance;
- 2) Training and tools provided for activities defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;
- 3) Strengthening national technical capacity for GHG inventory preparation and NDC monitoring and reporting;
- 4) Enhancing national technical capacity and intersectoral cooperation to support the implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures consisted in Moldova's Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC).

3. The project aims to transition the country to sustained capacity for ETF activities by providing resources for designing and operationalizing a comprehensive training programme to address capacity needs identified: (1) in the latest adopted national climate policies and documents, such as the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC2, 2020) [4] on Climate Change or the Fifth National Communication on Climate Change (NC5, 2023) [5] or (2) by the UNFCCC technical experts within the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process of Moldova's Biennial Update Reports (BUR) on Climate Change (ICA1 [6] in 2017, ICA2 [7] in 2019-2020 and ICA3 [8] in 2022-2023). It includes development of Knowledge Management and Climate Change Communication Plans to enhance and maintain expertise in key institutions and raise public awareness about climate actions. Additionally, it seeks to link transparency-related data with national disaster risk information systems, support gender-sensitive measurement and reporting through innovative tools like micro-narrative perception studies, and integrate women's knowledge and needs into climate policies to address inequalities and improve effectiveness.

4. The project interventions will benefit and empower a minimum of 483 individuals. This includes at least three representatives from all key stakeholders identified in Table 2, such as governmental institutions at the Ministry level (and their subordinate institutions), local public authorities, academia and research institutions,

the private sector, and the NGO community. Additionally, two representatives from each of the 32 districts, five municipalities, and two regions with special status will participate, along with at least 300 members, primarily from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, connected through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova. The project aims for at least 50% of the beneficiaries to be women.

5. The total project budget requested from the GEF Trust Fund is USD 2,000,000 inclusive of project preparation grant and Agency fee. This budget shall be complemented with additional USD 900,000 as co-financing provided by the Government of Moldova through the National Programme on Climate Change Adaptation, the National Development Programme for Reducing the Emissions and the budget of the National Office for Environment Projects Implementation (NOEPI) under the Ministry of Environment.

[4] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/MD_Updated_NDC_final_version_EN.pdf

[5] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Moldova_NC5_EN_web.pdf

[6] Technical analysis summary report (TASR) of the first biennial update report of Maldives submitted on 24 November 2019
<https://unfccc.int/documents/257163>

[7] Technical analysis summary report (TASR) of the second biennial update report of the Republic of Moldova submitted on 19 April 2019 <https://unfccc.int/documents/201025>

[8] Technical analysis summary report (TASR) of the third biennial update report of the Republic of Moldova submitted on 21 December 2021 <https://unfccc.int/documents/622037>

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

1. To support the Republic of Moldova to meet enhanced transparency framework (ETF) requirements for action and support, as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, by strengthening institutional and technical capacity for measuring and reporting on emissions (GHG inventory), tracking progress on NDCs, including mitigation and adaptation activities, and finance, technology, development and capacity building support received and needed.

Project Components

1. Strengthening Institutional arrangements, capacities and information management systems to support ETF compliance.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
350,000.00	25,000.00

Outcome:

1.1. Capacities of climate change relevant national institutions on national, subnational and local levels are strengthened and coordination improved.

1.2. Information Management enhanced to support ETF compliance

Output:

- 1.1.1. Enhanced quality of ETF activities through participatory capacity assessments at institutional and individual levels in priority sectors and design of a country specific **and gender sensitive** training plan which considers continuous learning needs;
- 1.1.2. Enhanced climate literacy and negotiation skills of high-level policy makers to improve their effectiveness in climate-related diplomacy and decision-making **taking into consideration gender aspects;**
- 1.1.3. Coordination and collaboration improved between national and subnational actors to scale up climate actions on local level;
- 1.1.4. Capacity of decision makers and stakeholders enhanced to ensure gender equality and equity in climate change projects.
- 1.2.1. Transparency concepts integrated into policies and legislation in key NDC / LTS priority sectors to enhance climate governance;
- 1.2.2. Climate Change Knowledge Management and Communication enhanced to ensure effective knowledge sharing and dissemination of information;
- 1.2.3. Stakeholders, **including gender-diverse participants**, equipped with knowledge of opportunities and risks linked to **Article 13 as it relates also to** participation in Article 6, ensuring a gender-sensitive approach.

2. Training and tools provided for activities defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
500,000.00	220,000.00

Outcome:

- 2.1. Organizations and individuals have the necessary training and tools for enhanced climate transparency activities and reporting

Output:

- 2.1.1. Integrated system of tracking tools for ETF actions and progress introduced, including on cross-cutting Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV);
- 2.1.2. Sustainable training programme for ETF activities[1] operationalized, including mentorship programme, to ensure sustainability of knowledge within institutions and among stakeholders, and inclusive Climate Action training designed and implemented, targeting women, youth and other vulnerable groups;
- 2.1.3. Innovative data collection, monitoring and gender-sensitive reporting solutions identified, promoted or introduced, including micronarratives, surveys and online information systems for specific sectors (such as livestock, agriculture, SDGs[2], waste management, loss and damage, refrigerants).

[1] Designed within project output 1.1.1

[2] Sustainable Development Goals

3. Strengthening national technical capacity for GHG inventory preparation and NDC monitoring and reporting.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
400,000.00	308,190.00

Outcome:

3.1. Arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting shift from a project-based cycle to a continuous process

Output:

3.1.1. Toolkits and formats developed and disseminated to enhance the transparency of the BTR reporting, to standardize processes and improve efficiency, with specific focus on the most vulnerable municipalities as per the Moldova's Climate Vulnerability Index[3];

3.1.2. Data management system used in each inventory cycle improved in line with ETF, to ensure accurate and streamlined data collection, analysis, and reporting;

3.1.3. Knowledge and skills of national experts and institutions involved in developing the national GHG inventory enhanced **with gender-sensitive approaches**, focusing on transitioning to country-specific Emission Factors (EFs) and higher tier methodologies;

3.1.4. National technical capacity enhanced for monitoring and reporting related to adaptation, including loss and damage **with a Focus on Gender Inclusivity**;

3.1.5. Gender-Responsive Climate Analysis enhanced and used to inform gender-responsive adaptation actions;

3.1.6. Capacity building initiatives supported for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) aimed at integrating climate risks into management planning **and enhancing gender responsiveness**;

3.1.7. Capacity building initiatives supported for Universities aimed at improving climate modeling, research, and data collection practices **with emphasis on enhancing gender inclusivity**.

[3] Defined in the Moldova's NC5

4. Enhancing national technical capacity and intersectoral cooperation to support implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures in Moldova's Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
304,986.00	220,000.00

Outcome:

4.1 Capacities of climate change relevant national institutions on adaptation and resilience are strengthened and coordination improved.

Output:

4.1.1 National technical capacity enhanced for implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures consisted in Moldova's LEDP and NPACC, with gender-sensitive approaches;

4.1.2 Coordination and collaboration improved between national and subnational actors to enhance implementation of climate change adaptation policies and measures consisted in Moldova's LEDP and NPACC.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
60,000.00	45,000.00

Outcome:

5.1. Project regularly monitored, lessons learned compiled and disseminated

Output:

5.1.1. Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation conducted, in addition to the preparation of annual Project Implementation reports (PIR);

5.1.2. Lessons learned compiled and disseminated in a transparent and participatory manner, including insights from women groups.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening Institutional arrangements, capacities and information management systems to support ETF compliance.	350,000.00	25,000.00
2. Training and tools provided for activities defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	500,000.00	220,000.00
3. Strengthening national technical capacity for GHG inventory preparation and NDC monitoring and reporting.	400,000.00	308,190.00
4. Enhancing national technical capacity and intersectoral cooperation to support implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures in Moldova's Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC)	304,986.00	220,000.00

M&E	60,000.00	45,000.00
Subtotal	1,614,986.00	818,190.00
Project Management Cost	161,498.00	81,810.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,776,484.00	900,000.00

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

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

6. The Paris Agreement, adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), establishes an Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for action and support in Article 13. This framework outlines the information required from non-Annex 1 Parties to the UNFCCC, including a national inventory report on progress made in achieving Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Art. 13, para. 7), information related to climate change impacts and adaptation (para. 8), and information on technology transfer and capacity building support needed and received (para. 10). As per paragraph 91 of Decision 1/CP.21, all Parties (except for least developed countries and small island developing states) are required to submit this information no less frequently than on a biennial basis. The ETF introduces new and enhanced reporting and review requirements with the aim of encouraging greater ambition and action by facilitating access to information on progress in implementing and achieving NDCs under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, as well as the financial, technological, and capacity-building support provided and mobilized by developed countries and needed and received by developing countries.

7. Moldova ratified the UNFCCC in 1995 and signed and ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017 accordingly. As Party to the Convention, Moldova has the obligation to implement decisions of the COP relevant to the implementation of policies and measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, thereby contributing to the attainment of the objective of the Convention and the Paris Agreement under CMA [9].

8. The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for developing and promoting state policy related to environmental protection, climate change, and natural resources. The MoE serves as the focal point for the UNFCCC. The National Commission on Climate Change (NCCC), established according to Government Decision no. 444 of July 1, 2020, is composed of representatives from various sectors including central and local public administration, educational and scientific institutions, NGOs, and the private sector. As an inter-institutional body without legal personality, the NCCC coordinates and promotes measures and actions for the universal application of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement in Moldova. It ensures

institutional coordination in monitoring, reporting, and verification, integrates climate change aspects into national and sectoral programmes, and oversees the implementation of climate-related provisions in international treaties.

9. So far, Moldova has prepared and submitted five National Communications (NCs) on climate change: the Initial National Communication (NC1) on Climate Change in 2000 [10]; the Second National Communication (NC2) in 2010 [11]; the Third National Communication (NC3) in 2014 [12], the Fourth National Communication (NC4) in 2018 [13] and the Fifth National Communication (NC5) in 2023 [14], with stand-alone National Inventory Reports in 2010 [15], 2014 [16], 2018 [17] and 2023 [18], as mandated by articles 4 and 12 of the Convention.

10. Three Biennial Update Reports (BURs) have also been prepared and submitted: First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) in 2016 with a stand-alone National Inventory Report (NIR) [19]; the Second Biennial Update Report (BUR2) with a stand-alone NIR in 2018 [20] and the Third Biennial Update Report (BUR3) with a stand-alone NIR in 2021 [21]. The First Biennial Transparency Report on Climate Change is under preparation with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

11. To conform with decisions 1/CP.19 and 1/CP.20 of the COP, Moldova submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2015 [22], setting an unconditional target of 64%-67% (conditional 78%) reduction of the national GHG emission by 2030 in comparison with the emissions in the reference year (1990). Moldova submitted its updated NDC in 2020 [23], significantly increasing its ambition to reduce the GHG emissions in the country by raising the unconditional target to 70% and the conditional to 88% for reduction of the national GHG emission by 2030 in comparison with 1990. The new GHG emission reduction targets were introduced in the Low Emission Development Programme (LEDP) by 2030 and the Action Plan for its implementation, approved recently by the Government (Law 659/2023 [24]). Within the enhanced NDC, gender is set out as a separate adaptation priority category with its own set of key activities [25], highlighting the lack of adequate statistical data on health and wellbeing from a gender perspective as one of the primary systemic obstacles to bolstering political commitment towards addressing climate change adaptation.

12. As part of Article 13, countries are required to fulfill various international reporting commitments related to their climate actions. This includes providing regular and transparent reports on their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigation efforts, adaptation actions, financial support provided and received, and other relevant information. Compliance with these reporting commitments is crucial for demonstrating each country's contributions to global climate efforts, fostering trust among Parties, and enabling effective monitoring and review of progress towards collective climate goals. So far, Moldova's reporting to the UNFCCC has been conducted on a project-by-project basis. While reporting efforts continue to improve, they are hindered by this ad hoc approach, which makes it difficult to nurture and develop capacity for ETF initiatives that are truly sustainable. To ensure robust participation in Article 13, the country needs support to develop its long-term institutional and technical capacity. This support will underpin enhanced climate ambition and action, guiding national prioritization, and informing policies and strategies.

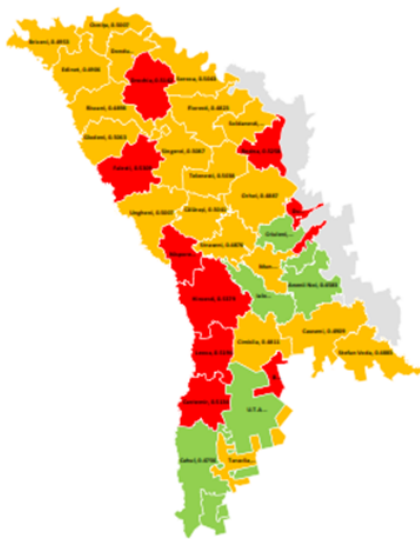
13. Despite being a small lower-middle-income economy, Moldova has made significant progress in reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth since the early 2000s. The economy has expanded by an average of 5% annually, driven by consumption and fueled by remittances^[26]¹. The latter account for a quarter of GDP, among the highest shares in the world. Moldova is an excellent example of how a

developing country can decouple emissions from economic growth: from 1990 to 2020, the total national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions [27] (expressed in CO₂ equivalent) in Moldova decreased by approximately 69.8%, surpassing reductions achieved by most industrialized countries and economies in transition included in Annex I to the UNFCCC. In 2020, Moldova's emissions totaled 13.66 Mt CO₂ equivalent, accounting for less than 0.03% of total global emissions. However, to accurately verify these reductions, it is essential to improve the accuracy of GHG emissions estimates. The largest source of GHG emissions is the Energy sector with 70% share in the total emissions, followed by Waste with 11.5% and Agriculture 11.3% with almost equal shares and Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) with 7.3% [28].

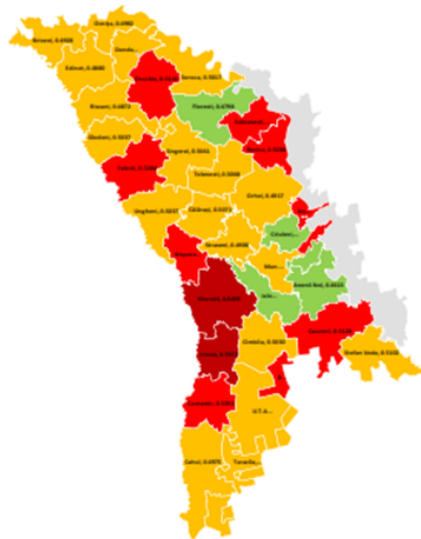
14. Over the last 133 years, Moldova has experienced changes in temperature and mean precipitation, with the early 1980s marking a significant turning point. The country has become warmer, with the average temperature increasing by 1.2°C, while the increase in precipitation has been around 51.3 mm [29]. Climate extremes related to higher temperatures have increased as expected, while those related to cold temperatures, such as frost days and ice days, have decreased. Most precipitation indices indicate a shift towards more intense rainfall in the Northern and Central Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZs), while the Southern AEZ has seen a tendency towards decreased rainfall intensity. In order to estimate the vulnerability to climate change risks on a districts level, the Climate Vulnerability Index has been developed in Moldova's NC5, using the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP)6 6 Global Circulation Models (GCMs) Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP) scenarios, SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-8.5. The results indicate that by the end of the century, the increase of the vulnerability climate change index will vary, according to the SSP1-2.6 scenario, from 0.6-0.7 per cent (Central AEZ) to 4.2-4.6 per cent (Southern AEZ), and increase from 7.6-8.1 per cent (Central) up to 9.3-10.1 per cent (Southern AEZ), according to scenario SSP5-8.5, as compared to the 2008-2019 reference period. The most vulnerable districts to climate change in territorial aspect, according to SSP5-8.5 scenario, during the 2081-2100 time period would be the following districts: Hancesti, Rezina Leova Basarabeasca, Cantemir Falesti and Drochia, while the lowest vulnerability is projected, according SSP1-2.6 scenario, for Ialoveni and Anenii Noi districts.

Figure 1. Spatial assessment of vulnerability to future climate change risks of Moldova's territory based on the Climate Vulnerability Index, under SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-8.5 scenarios, comparative to 2008-2019 reference period. Source: Moldova's NC5

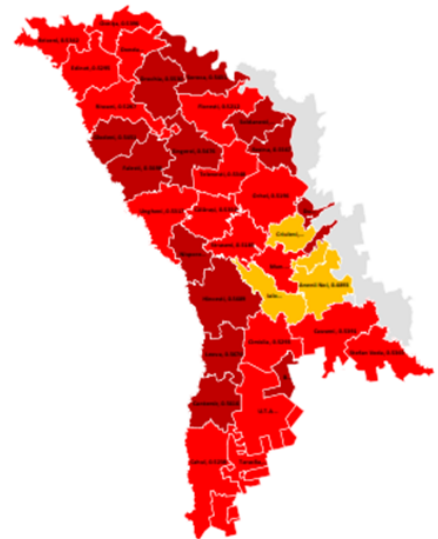
2008-2019



2081-2100 SSP1-2.6



2081-2100 SSP5-8.5



LEGEND: Vulnerability

	$0.4214 \leq CVI_i < 0.4511$ – very low degree of vulnerability
	$0.4511 \leq CVI_i < 0.4808$ – low degree of vulnerability
	$0.4808 \leq CVI_i < 0.5104$ – medium degree of vulnerability
	$0.5104 \leq CVI_i < 0.5401$ – high degree of vulnerability
	$0.5401 \leq CVI_i < 0.5698$ – very high degree of vulnerability

15. Moldova is among the few countries that have established a sound legal framework for climate reporting, particularly for GHG emissions. Further below is a list of the existing MRV systems in Moldova and their current stages of development. Despite this progress, the implementation of MRV legislation remains a significant challenge, especially in sustaining the entire process. The Environmental Agency is the competent authority for both the National System for Policies, Measures, and Prognosis (NSPMP) and National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) systems; however, due to resource constraints and limited staffing in the relevant ministries and agencies, MRV implementation becomes challenging.

1. National Monitoring and Reporting System (NMRS)

- **Stage of Development:**

16. Established through Governmental Decision (GD) 1277/2018 and regulated by the newly approved Law on Climate Actions No. 74 as of 11 April 2024, this system has been operational since 2018 and has undergone amendments three times, with the latest updates in January 2024 to align with EU regulations on climate governance. Through the NSMR, Moldova enhanced considerably the national arrangements (more clear roles, responsibilities and deadlines) and the domestic coordination of the climate change related activities, which set the foundation for complete and rigorous inventories as an important element of a domestic MRV system for mitigation actions and activities.

- **Sub-Systems:**

National Inventory System (NIS):

17. Provides the institutional, legal, and procedural framework for estimating and reporting anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals by sinks as per the UNFCCC requirements (operational).

National System for Policies, Measures, and Prognosis (NSPMP):

18. It assesses progress in climate mitigation policies and develops projections for GHG emissions and removals, climate models, projections and scenarios, key economic, social and/or environmental risks associated with the current or anticipated impact of climate change; actual observed impact, implemented or planned to adaptation actions, monitoring and evaluating associated with the implementation of national and sectoral policies, strategies and action plans in climate (should become operational as of 2025).

2. National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)

- **Stage of Development:**

19. Established by GD 373/2018, the PRTR is managed by the Environmental Agency and includes an automated information system (Automated Information System - Pollutant Emission and Transfer Register - SIA 'RETP') developed between 2017-2019. The first reporting was conducted for the year 2020, with the latest available reports for 2023. It includes GHG emissions with direct and indirect effects, aligning with broader environmental and climate monitoring efforts.

20. To comply with the ETF and facilitate UNFCCC and EU climate reporting, the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Agency plans to design/develop the following MRV-related enhancements:

- **Development of an Integrated Environmental Information System:** This system will integrate various modules, including the PRTR, reporting to Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP), EU ETS, and others, to streamline reporting and data management.

- **Development of a new MRV Modules:** Currently, an MRV module for GHG emissions from Stationary Installations and Aviation is in the design phase, and is expected to be approved and fully operational soon. Other modules to be developed as needed, all based on a comprehensive screening.

- **Interconnection of the NMRS with other MRV Systems:** The NMRS will be interconnected with other MRV systems based on results of a comprehensive screening process.

- **Utilization of UNFCCC Reporting Tools:** In accordance with decision 5/CMA.3, the MoE will adopt the newly released UNFCCC reporting tools for electronic reporting and should integrate them into the existing national platforms:

- **ETF | GHG Inventory Reporting Tool:** Generates common reporting tables (CRTs) for national inventory reports on GHG emissions and removals.
- **ETF | Progress Reporting Tool:** Generates common tabular formats (CTFs) to track progress in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
- **ETF | Support Reporting Tool:** Generates CTFs for reporting on financial, technology development, and capacity-building support provided, mobilized, needed, and received under the Paris Agreement.

21. The preparation process of NC and BUR reports has highlighted various achievements, but has also identified multiple capacity-building and enhanced transparency needs in Moldova, summarized as follows:

1. **Institutional Level:** Address system-level gaps through a participatory capacity assessment at individual, institutional, and enabling environment levels in priority sectors; Design internal performance and incentive systems that encourage staff to promote ambitious climate actions and provide tools for staff to contribute to climate-resilient action; Ensure effective leadership, coordination and MRV mechanism for climate planning and implementation at national and subnational levels.
2. **Political Level:** Enhance political commitment, climate diplomacy and leadership for negotiation and promoting adopted climate change actions; Involve high-level policy makers in outreach activities to gather multiple stakeholders and ensure broad public involvement; Support high-level leaders with skilled experts in advocating.
3. **Local Level:** Develop capacity at the local level and promote effective leadership for transformational change; Ensure the full and inclusive participation of all relevant actors in adaptation policy development and action; Coordinate and collaborate among national and subnational actors to enable effective climate actions (especially for adaptation); Mapping of municipalities vulnerable to climate extremes; Provision of capacity building support is crucial for local climate actions in vulnerable municipalities^[30] like Falesti, Hancesti, Rezina, Leova, Cantemir, Soldanesti, and others, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance their resilience to climate change impacts.
4. **Individual level:** Administrative staff often lacks specialized training or mentoring; Sectorial agencies may lack the skills to analyze the data they collect and utilize the findings
5. **Specific Sectors:** Incorporate nature-based solutions (NbS) into adaptation planning, focusing on prioritized sectors (agriculture, forestry, health, water, energy, and transport) through adopting biodiversity conservation principles and ecosystem services (ES) approach, climate budget tagging (supporting operationalization of the User's guide and methodological guidelines on climate tagging of the national public budget), circular economy, disaster risk reduction and loss and damage, incorporate climate consideration into Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process guidelines, climate proofing of critical infrastructure, especially energy infrastructure.
6. **Gender:** Ensure inclusive, gender-responsive stakeholder engagement in climate actions planning and implementation; Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders at different levels, develop and implement a comprehensive, gender-sensitive communication plan to raise awareness and promote gender-responsive climate actions; Conduct an in-depth sex-disaggregated cross-sectorial analysis of the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on rural women; Promote community-driven gender-responsive adaptation action; Develop and implement focused trainings, other types of education on climate actions targeting women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
7. **Knowledge Management:** Promote climate-related knowledge management within government and climate lead agencies, along with the need to strengthen information management to enable continuous learning and improvement and to ensure leverage of existing knowledge into climate action; Implementation of required capacity-building activities for specific institutions of governance systems at the state (national), regional (sub-national) and local levels to capture lessons learned, enhance policy planning and implementation, as well as in-house knowledge; Develop and implement a comprehensive Knowledge Management plan .

8. **Science and Innovation:** Promote climate technology innovation and support for prioritized technology measures; Identify and promote innovative solutions with mitigation benefits, including circular economic business models; Develop a technology roadmap based on the results of Technology Needs Assessment (TNA).
9. **Private Sector:** Support climate-related information sharing, innovative research to pursue technological development, and business models yielding benefits for the private sector; Build capacity for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to incorporate climate risks into planning and budgeting; Provide business-relevant climate information and risk analysis for MSMEs.
10. **Academia:** Improve capacities in universities for climate modeling, designing various climate studies, relevant research and evaluation.
11. **Communication:** Use climate change surveys and micronarratives to capture stories from the frontline (from citizens). Develop a climate change communication plan to disseminate information and knowledge effectively.

22. Also, the following outstanding areas for future improvements have been identified in BUR3 technical analysis [31]:

- (a) Strengthening the MRV capacity of the Environment Agency, in terms of both human and technical capacity, in relation to fulfilling the Party's reporting commitments under the UNFCCC (including NCs, BURs, NIRs and GHG inventories), including the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and related environmental conventions. The institutional capacity needs to be created in State institutions accounting for personnel changes, where institutional memory and continuity are ensured by framing the activities in the workplans of the institutions;
- (b) Enhancing institutional and technical capacity to launch the four-staged process of implementing a National Forest Inventory (NFI), based on the FAO preparatory project and experience sharing with the EU (e.g. from Romania, ready to exchange its FNI's knowledge and experience);
- (c) Enhancing human and institutional capacity to enable continued high-quality agricultural data collection on livestock management, manure management systems and soil management;
- (d) Enhancing the technical capacity of institutions involved in MRV of mitigation actions to estimate emission reductions achieved by implemented actions;
- (e) Enhancing the capacity of Giurgiulesti International Free Port, the Naval Agency and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to provide AD for reporting marine bunker fuels in the bunkers section of the energy balance and estimating GHG emissions from international navigation and reporting them separately in the national inventory;
- (f) Enhancing the capacity of domestic institutions to formulate and implement strategies and policies related to climate change;
- (g) Enhancing the capacity to carry out studies, research and assessments related to the development of mitigation strategies;
- (h) Enhancing the capacity of institutions to negotiate on climate issues at the international level;

- (i) Enhancing the capacity of the designated national authority to develop the national programmes supported by donors (Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, etc.) for implementing emission reduction measures of approved strategies.

23. In addition, Moldova reported the following capacity-building needs in its BUR3:

- (a) Strengthening national capacity to prepare the GHG inventory and the NIR to be submitted with the BUR or Biennial Transparency Report;
- (b) Enhancing the data management system used in each inventory cycle, including the periodical archiving of the inventory and the documentation on which the inventory is based, with a view to enhancing transparency;
- (c) Improving the knowledge of national experts and institutions involved in developing the national GHG inventory by organizing a series of thematic training sessions;
- (d) Enhancing the professional skills of national experts and institutions involved in developing the inventory process with a view to gradually transitioning from the use of default Emission Factors (EFs) and tier 1 methodologies to country specific EFs and tier 2 and 3 methodologies, particularly for key categories (such as fuels, solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment and disposal, road transportation, manure management etc).

24. The estimation process of anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals in Moldova (Figure 2) could be enhanced through several potential improvements:

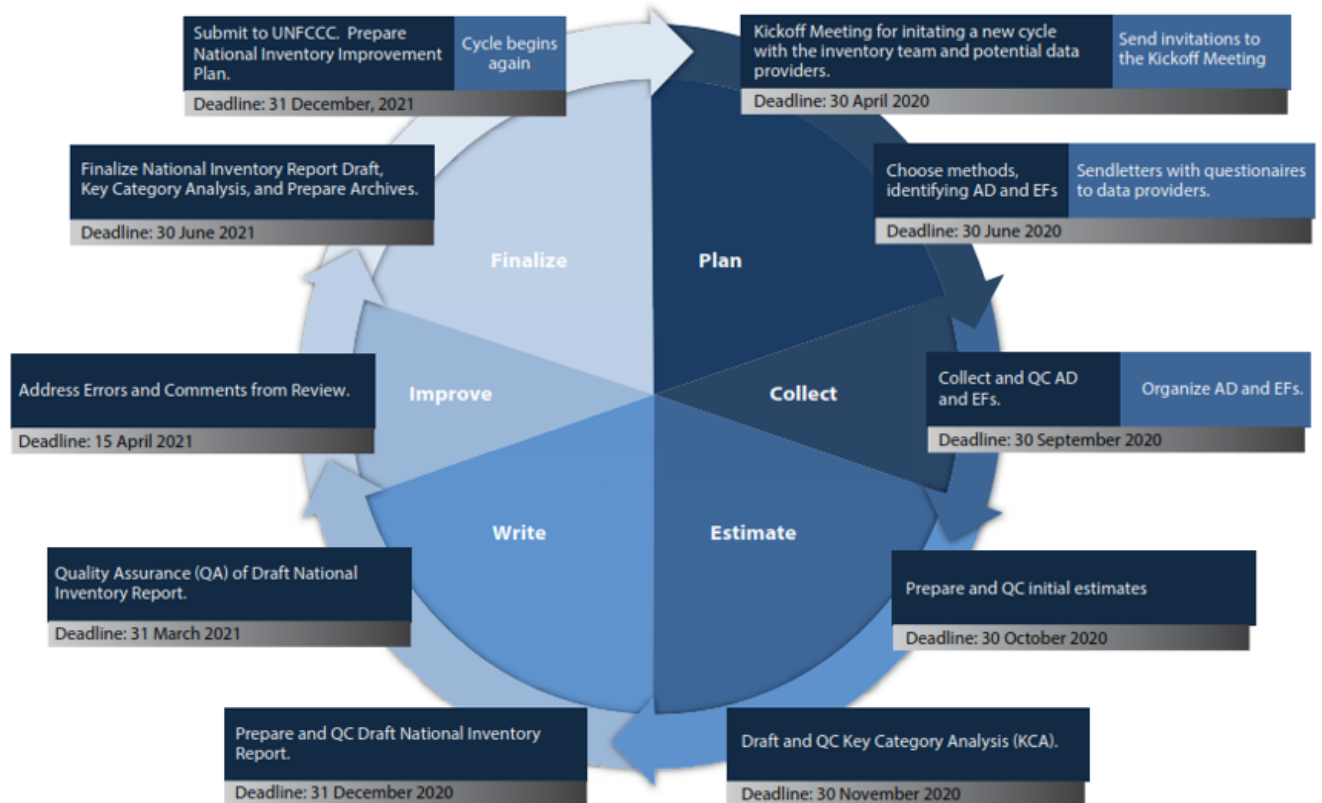
- Increasing the knowledge of national experts and institutions involved in developing the national GHG emission inventory through thematic trainings.
- Enhancing the professional skills of national experts and institutions involved in the inventory process to transition from default emission factors (EFs) and Tier 1 methodologies to country specific EFs and Tier 2 and 3 methodologies, especially for key categories.
- Strengthening the data management system used in each inventory cycle and ensuring periodic archiving of the inventory and related documentation to uphold transparency principles;
- Improving activity data collection and transitioning from default emission factors and Tier 1 methodologies to country specific emission factors and Tier 2 and 3 methodologies, as per the improvement priorities identified in the latest report on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System in the Republic of Moldova - 2021 [32]³ (Table 1).

Figure 2. National Inventory improvement priorities

#	Sector	Priority Level	Improvements Needed
1	General	High	Enhancing the professional capacities of national experts involved in the inventory process, specifically in the application of 2006 IPCC Guidelines and the associated GHG emissions calculation and reporting software, through thematic trainings with participation of international trainers.
2	General	High	Transitioning from default EFs and Tier 1 methodologies to country specific emission factors and Tier 2 and 3 methodologies, particularly focusing on key categories.
3	General	High	Strengthening the data management system for tracking and archiving the inventory information used in each inventory cycle.
4	Energy	High	Implementing in extent possible all recommendations contained in the "Report on the technical review of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the Republic of Moldova for 1990-2016 periods – Energy Sector", conducted by Dr. Veronica Ginzburg, Institute of Global Climate and Ecology, Roshidromet / Academy of Science of the Russian Federation within January-February 2019 periods.
5	Energy	Medium	Transitioning from default EFs and Tier 1 methodologies to country specific emission factors and Tier 2 and 3 methodologies, in particular for the following key categories: 1A3 Transport and 1B2 Fugitive Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas.
6	Industrial Processes and Other Products	High	Setting up an on-line reporting system for collecting AD from companies that import, use, dispose, recover and recycle refrigerants and refrigerant equipment; this information system will provide the Ministry of Environment, Environment Agency and Public Institution "Environmental Projects Implementation Unit" more accurate AD that could potentially help reduce uncertainties in estimating GHG emissions from the 2F Product Uses as Substitutes for ODS category in the Republic of Moldova
7	Agriculture	High	Estimate the share and usage of manure management systems in the Republic of Moldova (MS%) in order to enhance the accuracy of GHG inventory results within 3B Manure Management (the activity will be similar to that undertaken within May-June 2015 periods by the specialists from the Scientific-Practical Institute of Biotechnology in Animal Breeding and Veterinary Medicine as well as from the National Agency for Food Security, when dairy cows and other cattle farms with a herd of more than 5 heads were inspected, as well as pig farms with more than 30 heads and the largest poultry farms in the country; the inspections covered 36 districts of the country; in total, manure management systems from 179 farms have been inspected, of which 96 cattle farms, 66 pig farms and 17 poultry farms).
8	LULUCF	High	Complete the implementation process of the recommendations contained in the "Report on the technical review of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories of the Republic of Moldova for 1990-2016 periods – LULUCF Sector", conducted by Dr. Viorica Blujdea from the National Institute for Forestry Research and Development "Marin Dracea" (former ICAS Bucharest, Romania) in January-February 2019.
9	LULUCF	High	Raising the quality of GHG inventory in the LULUCF sector, through periodic (e.g., at least once in 5 years) 'Forest Inventory' to provide updated information, not only for the state of forest fund, but also for private forest land or those under the administration of local authorities; also, new production tables and other forest relevant information are needed; to accomplish these imperatives, the inter-institutional collaborative effort, and the needed financial resources may be very significant; thus, it is imperative to identify as soon as possible opportunities for obtaining such a financial support from the international donors and/or partners.
10	LULUCF	Medium	In collaboration with the specialists from the Institute of Pedology, Agrochemistry and Soil Protection "Nicolae Dimo" and Forestry Research and Management Institute of "Moldisiva" Agency, undertake a research study focused on identifying the soil organic carbon stocks (SOC) in the most recent years; the content of humus in arable soils (the layer of 0-30 cm) has to be identified in representative sites in the northern part of the country (e.g., Napadova, Floresti district), in the southern part of the country (e.g., Lebedenco, Cahul district), as well as in the central part of the country (e.g., Ivancoea, Orhei district); the results of the study will be used to estimate CO ₂ emissions from annual change in carbon stocks in mineral soils through a Tier 2 methodological approach.
11	Waste	Medium	Accomplishing an external independent technical evaluation of the GHG inventories – Waste Sector, by an international consultant with a good knowledge of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and with extensive expertise in assessing GHG inventories of the Annex I Parties.
12	Waste	Medium	Conducting a new study on determining the morphological composition of solid municipal waste deposited in various urban areas of the Republic of Moldova, in each locality at least 3 analyses per season (autumn, winter, spring and summer).

Source: Report on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory System in the Republic of Moldova - 2021

Figure 3. The most recent GHG inventory cycle in Moldova



Source: Report on National GHG inventory System in Moldova, 2021, Environment Agency

25. Based on the capacity gaps indicated above, barriers to implementing transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement can be divided into following categories:

1. Lack of institutional capacity to meet enhanced transparency requirements for action and support with international requirements and country priorities. In addition, electronic systems for MRV are scattered across sectors and face lack of trained personnel with a mandate to use them;
2. Organizations and individuals lack the necessary training and tools for measuring and reporting on emissions, mitigation and adaptation activities, and support received;
3. Lack of a holistic, continuous system for data collection, formatting, analysis, and reporting for the new ETF reporting from 2024, including GHG inventory, NDC actions tracking, and climate change adaptation monitoring. The current project-based cycle for reporting, rather than a continuous process, makes it difficult to respond to emerging transparency requirements. A number of partially developed or tested databases have been identified in different sectors. However, there is a lack of coordination among the databases, and certain databases do not have the formatting or level of scale necessary to contribute meaningfully to climate change activities. In the area of adaptation, there is also a lack of clear processes for collecting information and updating climate risk and vulnerability information.
4. Although women are meaningfully involved in the climate change decision-making process, gender issues are not well integrated into transparency activities. There is a low level of awareness regarding the relationship between gender issues and climate change issues. Government agencies do not have the individual capacity to analyze the consequences of climate change policies and measures on men and women, and they lack access to materials and specialists who could provide guidance and support. Finally, reporting data and systems may not be disaggregated by gender, which limits the ability of policymakers to learn from climate change programming.

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROJECT

26. The project aims to address these barriers and respond to capacity building needs to support the country's commitment to the Paris Agreement. It will focus on enhancing institutional coordination, addressing technical and capacity gaps, and facilitating the systematization of NDC action tracking, crucial for monitoring progress of and identifying priorities and opportunities for enhancing national climate actions and goals. Another essential component involves developing tools to support the establishment of an enhanced transparency framework and improve reporting to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, such as online information system to collect activity data from importers and service companies regarding the import, use, decommissioning, and recycling of refrigerants, agriculture, the Waste Management Automated Information System to enable data collection for and enhance accuracy of the GHG inventory etc. Additionally, existing tools and guidelines shall be used, such as the FAO loss and damage tool, FAO NDC tracking tool, Guide on Transparency [33] for cooperative approaches under the Paris Agreement: A guide to navigating the links between Articles 6 and 13, Q-SCAN tool to assess synergies and trade-offs between the SDGs and NDC etc.

27. Several ongoing projects (see Table 1 below) have been identified as complementary to this CBIT proposal, requiring effective coordination to prevent duplication of work and maximize synergies. This project shall further coordinate with the global Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) and with the FAO CBIT Forests Global Project [34] (both financed by the GEF). Through regional networks, various activities are provided through CBIT GSP including in-person workshops and trainings, e.g., on NDC tracking, virtual knowledge-sharing events among countries, on

tracking support needed and received, and national support activities, recommendations for institutional arrangements in countries or the identification of indicators for a country's NDC. To ensure better coordination of the CBIT project with GEF-financed transparency initiatives in other countries, information on this project will be uploaded into the GEF-CBIT Global Coordination Platform database contributing to the effective project tracking and to allow for joint reporting.

Table 1. Ongoing complementary climate change relevant projects in Moldova

PROJECT NAME	BASELINE INFORMATION
<p><u>“Advancing Moldova’s national climate change adaptation planning (phase 2)”</u></p> <p><i>Implementation period: 2020 – 2025</i></p> <p><i>Budget: \$2,110,400</i></p> <p><i>Donor: Green Climate Fund</i></p> <p><i>Implemented by: UNDP</i></p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> to support the Government of Moldova in advancing the national adaptation planning process by overcoming barriers to prioritizing climate change adaptation in key sectors, strengthening steering mechanisms, enhancing capacities for planning and implementing adaptation actions, refining financing, implementation, and monitoring systems. This involves enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems, updating the Capacity Development Plan, launching a climate change knowledge portal, and developing adaptation plans for district towns.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> strong cooperation and coordination shall be established between both projects, in order to avoid duplication for the adaptation capacity building related activities (related to component 4, outcome 4.1).</p>
<p><i>“Mainstreaming adaptation into planning processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change at local and central’s levels in Moldova’s Agriculture Sector” (Ag-SAP)</i></p> <p><i>Implementation period: 2020-2024</i></p> <p><i>Budget: \$685,000</i></p> <p><i>Donor: Green Climate Fund</i></p> <p><i>Implemented by: FAO</i></p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> to support the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to conduct comprehensive work to ensure climate change adaptation is mainstreamed into planning processes in the agriculture sector, ensuring a gender sensitive approach and the participation of all vulnerable groups.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> Outcomes and particular deliverables of the Ag-SAP project will be used as inputs for the work of the CBIT project (related to component 3, outcome 3.1 and component 4, outcome 4.1).</p>
<p><i>“Enabling a policy environment for integrated natural resources management and implementation of an integrated approach to achieve land degradation neutrality in Moldova”</i></p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> to support and scale up the introduction of innovative climate-smart agriculture practices, and sustainable forest and land management to achieve LDN.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> strong cooperation and coordination shall be established between both projects, to</p>

<p>Implementation period: 2020-2025</p> <p>Budget: \$1,666,895</p> <p>Donor: GEF-7</p> <p>Implemented by: FAO</p>	<p>ensure efficient use of resources and expertise and maximize the impact of both projects (related to component 4, outcome 4.1).</p>
<p><u>“Republic of Moldova: Preparation of the First Biennial Transparency Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”</u></p> <p>Implementation period: 2023 – 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$484,000</p> <p>Donor: GEF</p> <p>Implemented by: UNEP</p> <p>Executing Agencies: Public Institution “National Office for Environmental Projects Implementation (NOEPI)”, Ministry of Environment of Moldova.</p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> to support the Republic of Moldova to prepare and submit its First Biennial Transparency Report that comply with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement reporting requirements while responding to its national development goals.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> strong cooperation and coordination shall be established between both projects, in order to ensure efficient use of resources and expertise and maximize the impact of both projects (related to component 1, outcome 1.1 and 1.2, component 3, outcome 3.1).</p>
<p>“Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)”</p> <p>Implementation period: 2022 – 2027</p> <p>Budget: \$2,400,000</p> <p>Donor: GEF</p> <p>Implemented by: UNEP</p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> supporting developing countries in the transition to the ETF and its Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Agreement.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> enhanced regional cooperation and networking, feeding and utilizing good knowledge practices published on the global platform and enhanced participation of relevant national counterparts at the global project activities (related to component 1, outcome 1.2 and component 2, outcome 2.1).</p>
<p>Global capacity building towards enhanced transparency (CBIT-AFOLU+)</p> <p>Implementation period: 2024 – 2027</p> <p>Budget: \$2,000,000</p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> supporting countries to enhance their 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. The project will explore the expansion of the scope of work from agricultural sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture) and include Waste, Energy and Industrial Processes and Product Use, especially with regards to activities on</p>

<p>Donor: GEF</p> <p>Implemented by: FAO</p>	<p>strengthening institutional arrangements and cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome): enhanced regional cooperation and networking, feeding and utilizing good knowledge practices identified within the global project and enhanced participation of relevant national counterparts at the global project activities (related to all components of the CBIT project).</p>
<p><u>“Addressing the impacts of the energy crisis in the Republic of Moldova”</u></p> <p>Duration: 2022 – 2024</p> <p>Budget: \$14,382,200</p> <p>Donor: European Union</p> <p>Implemented by: UNDP</p>	<p>Overall objective of the project: Addresses the current energy crisis and energy poverty by prioritizing systemic elements in the energy sector to prepare for potential future challenges. Its goal is to establish a functional, transparent energy market that integrates with European regional markets, ensuring inclusive benefits from green energy transition. This involves establishing a legal and regulatory framework aligned with EU requirements, enhancing capacities and coordination among energy-related actors to manage risks, promoting energy-saving practices and renewable energy adoption through public awareness, and implementing nationwide energy programmes targeting vulnerable populations to improve energy affordability in residential and public buildings.</p> <p>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome): leverage the momentum generated by this initiative to integrate energy and climate considerations, to provide detailed data needed for greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, modeling, and improved transparency (related to component 1, outcome 1.2 and component 2, outcome 2.1).</p>
<p><u>“Clean technology innovation programme for SMEs and start-ups in the Republic of Moldova”</u></p> <p>Implementation period: 2021-2026</p> <p>Budget: \$ 8.511.950</p> <p>Donor: GEF</p> <p>Implementing Agency: UNIDO</p> <p>Executing Agencies: Energy Efficiency Agency (EEA), Network for Global</p>	<p>Overall objective of the project: to transform early-stage innovative cleantech solutions into scalable enterprises; Strengthen the capacities of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem (CIEE) stakeholders and connect them; Engage with the global coordination project to ensure programme coordination and coherence.</p> <p>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome): capitalize on the momentum generated by this initiative, engaging small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in capacity-building activities and utilizing them as data providers by tapping into SMEs' expertise and resources and fostering a collaborative environment for climate action in Moldova (related to component 3, outcome 3.1).</p>

<p>Innovation (NGIN), Cleantech Group (CTG)</p>	
<p>EU4Climate</p> <p>Better Climate Policies for Eastern Partner Countries</p> <p><i>Implementation period: 2018 – 2023</i></p> <p><i>Budget: \$8,800,000</i></p> <p><i>Donor: European Commission</i></p> <p><i>Implemented by: UNDP</i></p>	<p><i>Overall objective of the project:</i> To assist the governments in the six EU Eastern Partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) to take action against climate change and towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy. The EU4Climate initiative supports Moldova in elaborating its long-term low emission development strategy and mainstreaming climate in the sectoral strategies. A robust domestic emissions Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system will be established, to inform the government and the international community on the progress of its NDC implementation.</p> <p><i>How the CBIT project will benefit from the project (including specific project component/outcome):</i> Although the project has been recently closed, the CBIT project shall benefit from many project results (especially related to the MRV regulation that has been drafted) and support continuous data collection to feed the MRV system (related component 2, outcome 2.1 and component 3, outcome 3.1).</p>

[9] Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

[10] <https://unfccc.int/documents/140701>

[11] <https://unfccc.int/documents/140743>

[12] <https://unfccc.int/documents/140766>

[13] <https://unfccc.int/documents/64790>

[14] <https://unfccc.int/documents/627100>

[15] <https://unfccc.int/documents/140765>

[16] <https://unfccc.int/documents/140768>

[17] <https://unfccc.int/documents/39802>

[18] <https://unfccc.int/documents/627101>

[19] <https://unfccc.int/documents/180686>

[20] <https://unfccc.int/documents/192185>

[21] <https://unfccc.int/documents/403587>

[22] <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mol190358.pdf>

[23] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/MD_Updated_NDC_final_version_EN.pdf

[24] https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=139980&lang=ro

[25] Gender Climate Tracker, <https://genderclimatetracker.org/country-profile/moldova>

[26] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova>

[27] Excluding sinks. Source: Moldova's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change

[28] Source: Moldova's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change

[29] Source: Moldova's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change

[30] As per the Climate Vulnerability Index, calculated in the Moldova's Fifth National Communication on Climate Change

[31] Technical analysis of the third biennial update report of the Republic of Moldova submitted on 21 December 2021. Summary report by the team of technical experts, <https://unfccc.int/documents/622037>

[32] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NIS_Report_2021_EN_211211-web.pdf

[33] Initiative for Climate Action transparency (ICAT), https://climateactiontransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ICAT-Guide-Article-6_D4-2.pdf

[34] Project "Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising" <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11308>

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

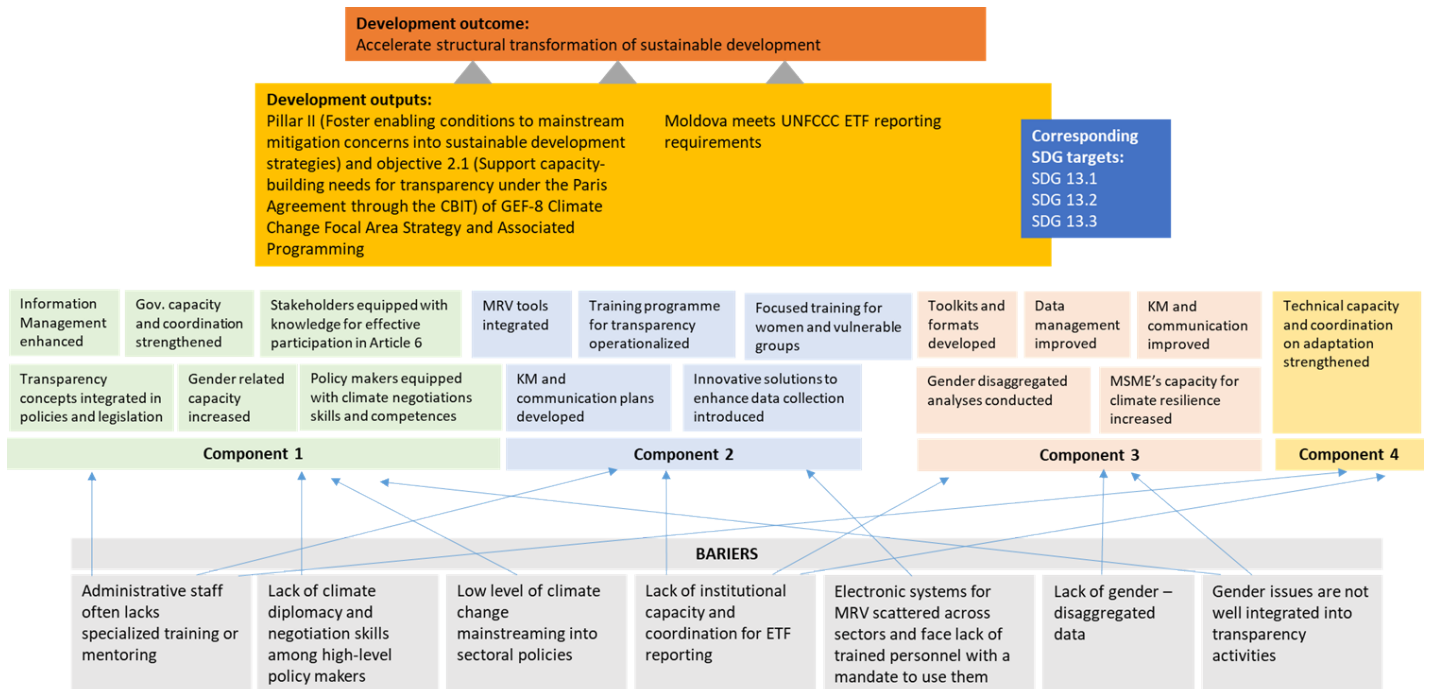
Project description

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

28. Moldova has made considerable progress in climate change policy planning, relevant assessments, and decoupling emissions from economic growth. However, these activities are mostly project based, fragmented across sectors and institutions, and lack an integrated approach to maintain knowledge and ensure the sustainable development of institutional and individual capacities. The project objective is to meet enhanced transparency requirements for action and support, as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, by strengthening institutional and technical capacity for measuring and reporting on emissions, mitigation and adaptation activities, and support received. Without the project's support, the country will undertake periodic reporting on climate change, but it will not be able to undertake transparency activities consistently and continuously, to the full extent of its potential. The country will also be limited in the contributions it can make to global understanding of climate change and actions to address it.

29. The project is comprised of four components and corresponding activities, as presented in the Theory of Change diagram (Figure 3) and detailed activities for all four components stipulated below.

Figure 4. Theory of Change



Component 1: Strengthening Institutional arrangements, capacities and information management systems to support ETF compliance

Outcome 1.1. Capacities of climate change relevant national institutions on national, subnational and local levels are strengthened and coordination improved.

30. This component focuses on strengthening the capacity of relevant government organizations to enhance the scope and quality of transparency activities through detailed participatory capacity assessments at individual and institutional levels in priority sectors for climate action, such as agriculture, forestry, health, water, energy, and transport. The assessment will inform new functional specifications of institutions (as needed) and the design of a country-specific training and mentorship plan to ensure continuous learning. Institutions and individuals will have the opportunity to prioritize areas of capacity support based on their needs, based on a participatory capacity assessment of relevant employees in governmental institutions on national, subnational and local levels (designed by the FAO e-learning Academy [1]) and complemented with a study tour. These may include developing and applying sector-specific emission factors for agriculture and forestry, which are crucial for refining the accuracy of GHG inventories; training for designing robust indicators to track NDC progress, such as metrics for renewable energy deployment in the energy sector or deforestation rates in forestry, training on how to enhance data collection and management practices for sectors like water and transport, where comprehensive and reliable activity data is essential for accurate reporting; tailored sessions to train Ministry of Finance staff to introduce climate finance tagging using established guidelines, ensuring effective tracking and reporting of climate-related expenditure etc. These activities will also support the Environment Agency in building MRV capacity, such as developing protocols for data analysis and improving methodologies for monitoring emissions reductions. The design of MRV frameworks will ensure integration across national and subnational systems, with a focus on the implementation of climate actions in the most vulnerable municipalities. It is important to note that the exact scope and specific details of these training activities, as well as the development of indicators and methodologies, will be further confirmed and refined during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase. This phase will ensure that the interventions are tailored to Moldova's

specific needs and aligned with national priorities and CBIT funding requirements. Some of these sectors were identified as lacking capacity-building needs in Moldova's NC5 and BUR3, while others were proposed by the Government during consultations for the development of this PIF. The list is provisional and will be finalized during the inception phase, based on the results of a detailed capacity needs assessment at both individual and institutional levels. Providing training sessions for these specific sectors will equip individuals in institutions working on the climate and transparency agenda with the skills to source and collect comprehensive data, amend existing policies, and monitor and report on the effectiveness and impact of these solutions. This ensures accurate and comprehensive data collection for the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) required under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). Additionally, raising these capacities will contribute to enhancing the ambition of the next NDCs, improving the clarity and tracking of progress towards achieving Moldova's individual nationally determined contributions and Parties' adaptation actions (Article 13, para 5). Special attention will be directed towards sectoral agencies that lack the skills to analyze collected data and utilize findings such as strengthening the MRV capacity of the Environment Agency or training will be provided to the Ministry of Finance and budget developers in institutions to operationalize the User's Guide and methodological guidelines on climate finance tagging of the national public budget.

31. Additionally, this component aims to equip high-level policy makers with climate negotiation and literacy skills to enhance political commitment, climate diplomacy, and leadership for promoting adopted climate change actions. One specific example of supporting policy makers in this endeavor is the creation of condensed policy briefs, designed to translate technical climate language used in policies and reports into more easily understandable, politically friendly language. This approach can bridge the gap between technical expertise and political decision-making, ensuring that policymakers have access to clear and concise information when formulating climate-related policies and strategies. It can also improve coordination and collaboration between national and subnational actors to scale up climate actions at the local level, with a focus on municipalities most vulnerable to climate change, enhancing their resilience through knowledge and skills development. This will be done by supporting implementation of the recently approved Climate Action Law ^[21] or other enabling framework to improve climate governance. This component aims to increase capacity of key stakeholders to ensure gender equality and equity in climate change projects, ensuring inclusivity and addressing gender-specific needs and challenges. Furthermore, gender dimension shall be additionally strengthened through including representatives of women's associations and capturing their perspective in project activities. The trainings will tentatively cover key provisions of the ETF in line with the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. This tentatively includes equipping policymakers with the skills to interpret and utilize GHG inventory data effectively, understanding how to evaluate progress towards NDCs, and navigating procedures for adaptation communications and climate finance reporting. These technical skills will enhance policymakers' negotiation capacity by allowing them to engage in informed discussions at international climate negotiations related to the reporting standards and requirements, advocate for strong transparency provisions, and ensure alignment with Moldova's climate commitments. The specific training topics will be further detailed during the PPG phase to ensure they meet the evolving needs of Moldova's climate governance framework.

32. Training high-level policymakers with climate negotiation and literacy skills is crucial for informing the reporting requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), specifically under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The provisions of the ETF are a key component of UNFCCC negotiations, as they facilitate transparent and accurate reporting on climate priorities, actions and support. By equipping policymakers with a deep understanding of these provisions, one can more effectively engage in

international negotiations, advocate for robust national reporting systems, and ensure that Moldova meets its transparency obligations. The inclusion of such training in the assessment ensures that policymakers are well-versed in both the technical aspects and the broader implications of climate reporting, thereby enhancing the quality and accuracy of Moldova's submissions under the ETF. To sustain this knowledge beyond their tenure, the project will institutionalize best practices and establish a dedicated team within relevant government institutions, thus ensuring that the enhanced skills and knowledge are retained and utilized effectively, supporting ongoing engagement with the ETF and other climate-related frameworks. Moreover, policymakers often may inadvertently hinder transparency improvements; thus, enhancing their capacities will ensure that Moldova's NDC 3.0 is prioritized on the governmental agenda and will establish a framework that not only increases the focus on transparency but also promotes the effective implementation of country's climate commitments.

Outcome 1.2. Information Management enhanced to support ETF compliance.

33. This outcome aims to strengthen climate governance by integrating transparency concepts into policies and legislation in sectors identified as priorities for NDCs and LTS (including sectors such as water resources, human health, forestry, energy, transport and agriculture). Each sector's inclusion is critical due to its significant contribution to the national GHG emissions and potential for climate mitigation and adaptation. By incorporating transparency principles into these frameworks, the project seeks to improve accountability, clarity, and effectiveness in climate-related decision-making processes. Additionally, this outcome focuses on improving the management and communication of climate change knowledge. It involves establishing systems and processes for collecting, organizing, and sharing information related to climate change. Effective knowledge management and communication are crucial for informing stakeholders, policymakers, and the public about climate change issues, solutions, and best practices. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement provides a framework for voluntary cooperation between countries to achieve their climate goals. This output aims to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge to better understand Article 13 as it relates also to Article 6, such as carbon markets and non-market approaches. By doing so, this project seeks to facilitate informed decision-making and effective participation in international climate cooperation efforts and align these with Article 13 requirements. Aligning monitoring and reporting as required as part of Article 13 and Article 6. This is closely aligned with the CBIT's focus on enhancing transparency, and ensuring clear and accurate reporting on and ensuring clear and accurate reporting on international transfers and cooperative approaches which is vital for accountability and tracking progress towards NDC targets.

34. Overall, component 1 seeks to strengthen the foundation for effective climate governance by integrating transparency principles, improving knowledge management and communication, and enhancing stakeholder awareness of international climate cooperation mechanisms. These efforts are essential for advancing climate action and meeting the objectives outlined in NDCs and LTS. To sustain capacity-building efforts planned within this component beyond the project's lifecycle, the project shall: (a) support the establishment of ongoing training and mentorship programs, tailored to the specific needs identified through participatory capacity assessments across national, subnational, and local levels; (b) create institutional frameworks that support continuous learning and professional development, ensuring that government organizations remain equipped to handle evolving climate challenges; (c) integrate climate-related roles and responsibilities into official job descriptions, in order to institutionalize the skills and knowledge gained; (d) support establishment of a national climate knowledge management system, facilitating the continuous update and dissemination of information, best practices, and innovations and (e) emphasize gender inclusivity, ensuring that both men and women benefit equally from capacity-

building initiatives, and that gender-specific challenges are addressed. This approach can ensure that the capacities developed are not only sustained but also scaled up, fostering a resilient and adaptive governance framework that can support long-term climate action.

Component 2: Training and tools provided for activities defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

Outcome 2.1. Organizations and individuals have the necessary training and tools to conduct enhanced climate transparency activities and reporting

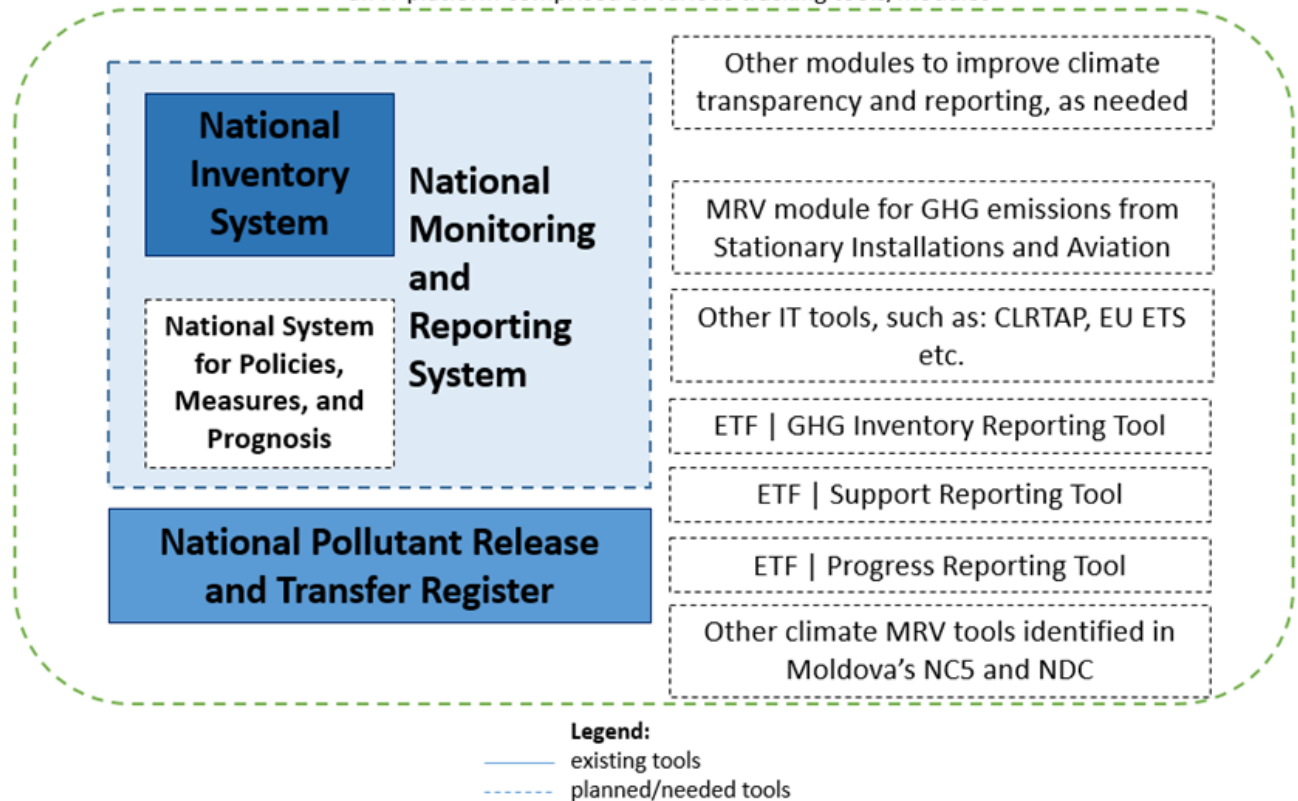
35. In this component, several actions will be taken to enhance transparency and knowledge management in climate change initiatives. First, an integrated system of tracking tools for ETF-related actions and progress will be introduced to enhance monitoring and reporting and enable connection/upgrade of existing MRV systems in the country. Second, the training programme for transparency activities (designed in Component 1) shall be implemented, including mentorship programmes to ensure the sustainability of knowledge, especially within governmental institutions further detailed in Table 3. Third, training sessions focused on climate actions will be developed and conducted by targeting women, youth, and other vulnerable groups to ensure inclusivity and effective participation. Additionally, a comprehensive and gender sensitive Climate Change Knowledge Management plan and a Climate Change Communication plan will be developed for the period 2025-2030 to facilitate effective knowledge management and dissemination of information. The adaptation knowledge management portal [3](#) (developed within the project “Advancing Moldova’s national climate change adaptation planning (phase 2)” -see Table 1) will be amended to incorporate all knowledge management products developed within the CBIT project, or a new knowledge management module will be designed within the national climate change portal [4](#), which also requires redesigning. Lessons learned will be captured within the PIR process and widely disseminated with stakeholders to benefit future projects. This integrated approach aims to enhance accessibility and usability of climate-related information, ensuring that it is effectively utilized for decision-making and action at all levels.

36. Furthermore, existing tracking tools will be merged and refined, and a cross-cutting MRV system—an integrated digital platform (see Figure 5 for details)—will be designed and developed to enhance climate data collection and reporting processes. The design of this integrated system will be based on a comprehensive screening process in the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase. One integrated platform shall replace many current practices, such as manual information collection via mail, will be replaced with a centralized IT solution that records and tracks all relevant data in one place. This will lead to a more comprehensive and transparent climate reporting mechanism. Some of the IT platforms and tools needed for the planned MRV enhancements (as outlined in the Situation Analysis) may be developed through this project’s outcomes, while others may be addressed through complementary initiatives. These specifics, taking into consideration budget allocation and the planned implementation period of this project, shall be determined during the Project Preparation Grant phase.

Figure 5. An informative outline of the existing and planned MRV tools in Moldova

Integrated Environmental Information System

an IT platform comprised of various tracking tools/modules



37. Finally, innovative solutions and systems for improved data collection, monitoring, and reporting will be identified, promoted and introduced. These may include micronarratives (unlike traditional surveys, micronarratives are a qualitative data collection technique that captures personal stories, allowing respondents to share their insights freely. This approach offers richer and more nuanced perspectives, especially in areas like climate change, where understanding human behavior and decision-making is essential for effective policy making [5]), surveys (such as using PowerBi format or innovative solutions designed by the FAO e-learning Academy team), and online information systems tailored to specific sectors such as livestock manure management, agriculture, waste management, circular economy, disaster risk reduction, refrigerants and gender-sensitive reporting (this will be defined during the inception phase).

38. The activities in this component will draw from FAO resources such as "NDC tracking tool", 'Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Agriculture: A Manual to Address Data Requirements for Developing Countries' (2015), tools and resources from the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) programme, and other sectoral guidelines. Additionally, the project will consider 'Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors: Climate Change Adaptation Indicators' from FAO. Moreover, the micronarratives will inform tailored climate change training for women, youth, and vulnerable groups, enhancing their awareness of and participation in policy development and pushing for greater transparency from policymakers. This bottom-up approach differs from the more general, top-down training program developed in Component 1 and implemented under Component 2 (Outcome 2.1), which addresses broader gender and vulnerability needs. Both the tailored and general training programs will be designed after completing a capacity needs assessment for institutions and individuals working on climate change policies and transparency, as well as finalizing the micronarratives. This ensures that the training content addresses specific needs and gaps identified in the capacity needs assessment and in carrying out the micronarratives.

39. The sustainability of the training and tools developed under component 2 shall be ensured by: (a) creating a comprehensive, easily accessible digital repository of all knowledge materials, guidelines, and toolkits. This repository will be integrated into the national climate change portal, which will be maintained and updated by a dedicated team within a relevant governmental department; (b) introducing a train-the-trainer approach, where selected experts are trained to become trainers themselves, enabling them to continue the education process within their organizations and sectors; (c) targeted sessions for women, youth, and vulnerable shall ensure inclusivity; (d) data collected will not only support immediate transparency and reporting needs but will also serve as a valuable resource for various analyses and policy development beyond the project's completion; (e) embedding these practices into existing frameworks and leveraging resources from FAO and the CBIT global projects shall ensure that the capacities built are not only preserved but continually adapted and expanded to meet future climate transparency and reporting needs.

Component 3. Strengthening national technical capacity for GHG inventory preparation and NDC monitoring and reporting

Outcome 3.1. Arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting shift from a project-based cycle to a continuous process

40. This component focuses on enhancing Moldova's capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation through several key activities. These include the development and dissemination of toolkits and country specific formats aimed at improving the transparency of the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) reporting process. These resources shall be designed to standardize reporting processes and enhance efficiency, with a particular emphasis on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable municipalities identified through Moldova's Climate Vulnerability Index. By providing these resources, the project seeks to improve the accuracy and accessibility of climate-related data while ensuring that the reporting process is more streamlined and consistent across different regions. Another activity is the improvement of the data management system in line with ETF, to ensure accurate and streamlined data collection, analysis, and reporting. This output focuses on enhancing the data management system used in each inventory cycle to align with Environment and Climate Finance requirements. The goal is to ensure that data collection, analysis, and reporting processes are accurate, streamlined, and aligned with international standards. By improving the data management system, the project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of data used for monitoring and reporting on climate-related activities. Whereas Outcome 2.1 refers to the 'Integrated system of tracking tools' meaning digital IT platforms that compile data from existing databases and suggest or develop additional modules to analyze and cross-reference data, Output 3.1 involves designing country-specific toolkits and formats to enable the collection of additional, currently lacking, or insufficiently detailed data for the GHG inventory. In Output 3.1, new data management systems should be designed, detailing responsibilities for data provision, collection, analysis, verification, and timeframe, while their actual development will be funded through Output 2.1.

41. Additionally, this outcome aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of national experts and institutions involved in developing the GHG inventory, with a focus on transitioning to country-specific Emission Factors (EFs) and higher tier methodologies, which are more tailored and accurate than default methods. Given the limited project funding and implementation period, the specific sectors and categories will be further defined during the PPG phase, based on the identified key improvements needed for the GHG inventory, such as categories 1A3 transport or 1B2 fugitive emissions from oil and natural gas in the energy sector (see Figure 2 for more details). By improving expertise in these areas, the project aims to enhance the accuracy and reliability of the national GHG inventory, which is crucial for tracking progress

towards emission reduction targets. This outcome also focuses on enhancing national technical capacity for monitoring and reporting on adaptation efforts, including loss and damage associated with climate change, in order to strengthen the country's ability to assess the effectiveness of adaptation measures and address challenges related to loss and damage. More specifically, design of comprehensive methodologies for collecting and analyzing data on the impacts of climate change in Moldova shall be supported to enable tracking losses and damages and social impacts caused by climate change. The data collected will help in create a more accurate and transparent reporting system, thereby aligning with the ETF under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, which requires Parties to provide information on the adverse effects of climate change.

42. The learning process will be complemented and enriched by targeted study tours focusing on GHG inventory and loss and damage, incorporating good practices from other countries. These study tours will provide valuable insights and experiences, further enhancing the capacity-building efforts. The project will also facilitate dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders, including government agencies, businesses, labor unions, and community organizations, to ensure a coordinated and inclusive approach to just transition efforts in Moldova.

43. Another key action is conducting an in-depth gender-disaggregated analysis of climate change impacts on vulnerable groups (including the results obtained from the micronarratives exercise), particularly rural women, to inform gender-responsive adaptation actions that consider and address the specific needs of different women as well as youth and vulnerable groups as well as to promote community-driven and gender-responsive adaptation actions. The project will focus on understanding the differential impacts of climate change on various vulnerable groups and women. This analysis will provide insights into how these groups are affected by climate events differently, which is crucial for designing targeted adaptation and mitigation measures. The results will inform national reports under Article 13, ensuring Moldova's BTRs and NDCs comprehensively address the gendered impacts of climate change, in line with the Paris Agreement's emphasis on gender equality and inclusivity in climate policies.

44. Lastly, the component supports capacity-building initiatives targeting MSMEs to integrate climate risks into their planning processes, in close cooperation with the Chamber for Commerce and Industry. The goal is to enhance the resilience of MSMEs to climate-related impacts by ensuring that they are better prepared to address climate risks in their business operations and decision-making. Support to universities shall also be provided to enhance their capacities in climate modeling, research, and data collection, contributing to improved climate-related knowledge and expertise so they can provide high-quality data and research to support evidence-based policymaking and planning.

45. To sustain the capacity-building efforts planned in Component 3 beyond the project's lifecycle, the project shall: (a) support the integration of newly developed country-specific toolkits, data management systems, and enhanced methodologies into existing governance structures; (b) build the capacity of a dedicated unit or team within national agencies to oversee the implementation and maintenance of the data management system; (c) offer opportunities for national experts to participate in study tours, thus equipping them with practical insights or best practices from other countries, and creating new regional/international networks and collaboration opportunities; (d) incorporate findings from the gender-disaggregated analysis into ongoing policy frameworks and adaptation strategies, in order to ensure that gender-responsive actions are continuously applied and updated to address the evolving needs of vulnerable groups; and (e) facilitate networking and knowledge sharing among MSMEs to

enhance their climate resilience to enable businesses to remain informed and prepared to address climate risks effectively in their operations and decision-making.

Component 4. Enhancing national technical capacity and intersectoral cooperation to support implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures in Moldova's Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC)

Outcome 4.1. Capacities of climate change relevant national institutions on adaptation and resilience are strengthened and coordination improved.

46. This component aims to enhance national technical capacities for climate adaptation and resilience, which are crucial for implementing the adaptation policies and measures outlined in Moldova's recently adopted policy documents: the Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) until 2030 and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC) until 2030. It will focus on strengthening the skills and knowledge of national experts and institutions involved in climate adaptation and resilience. This will be achieved through implementation of the adaptation and resilience sections of the comprehensive training programs designed within Component 1 (the content of the training programs is designed within Component 1, the actual delivery of these training sessions occurring in Component 4). This approach ensures that capacity building is directly linked to effective monitoring and reporting, thereby improving Moldova's ability to transparently report on its climate adaptation progress and align with international commitments.

47. Additionally, stakeholders will gain access to advanced technologies and methodologies, ensuring that they are equipped with the latest tools and knowledge to address climate challenges effectively (such as Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors: Climate Change Adaptation Indicators of FAO [6], and Reporting adaptation through the biennial transparency report: A practical explanation of the guidance [7] to develop nationally appropriate indicators for adaptation. In addition, to enhance the technical capacity of the stakeholder, this component will utilize the e-learning courses developed by FAO, such as (a) an introduction to FAO's damage and loss assessment methodology [8], (b) an introduction to climate-smart agriculture [9], (c) Climate-smart forestry [10], (d) Climate-smart fisheries and aquaculture [11], (e) Climate-smart soil and land management [12], and (f) Climate-smart livestock production [13]). Moreover, this component will highlight the role of adaptation within the broader context of low-emission development, demonstrating how effective adaptation strategies contribute to achieving GHG emission targets, such as climate-smart agriculture in the agricultural sector or climate-resilient infrastructure in urban areas, contribute to reducing Moldova's GHG emissions. This will also support the tracking of adaptation progress and emissions reductions, in line with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, and enhance Moldova's ability to transparently report on both adaptation measures (e.g., improving water management systems to cope with changing rainfall patterns) and emission reduction efforts under the ETF. The suggested specific actions reflect the intersection of Moldova's climate adaptation and mitigation efforts and are aligned with Moldova's climate LEDP (for emission reductions) and the NPACC (for adaptation) policies. By integrating these aspects, the initiative will ensure a cohesive approach to both climate resilience and emission reduction, aligning with Moldova's overall environmental and developmental goals. Moreover, necessary technical assistance and resources shall be provided to effectively implement the adaptation policies and measures defined in the LEDP and NPACC. This will involve developing detailed action plans and ensuring compliance with international standards.

48. To sustain and amplify the impact of the capacity-building efforts, the project will actively seek complementarities with other ongoing and planned initiatives in Moldova (particularly those specified in Table 1 above) to ensure that the climate adaptation efforts are synergistic and mutually reinforcing. Better coordination and cooperation among key stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, and local communities shall be facilitated across different sectors such as agriculture, water management, infrastructure, and health to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation. Intersectoral workshops and integrated planning sessions

will be organized to foster this cooperation, bringing together government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities to review progress, share experiences, and update action plans, thus fostering a sustainable and collaborative approach to climate adaptation across Moldova. Additionally, the project team will also facilitate regular forums and networking events to encourage women’s participation and leadership in climate resilience initiatives, ensuring that gender considerations remain integral to Moldova’s long-term climate strategies.

Component 5. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Outcome 5.1. Project regularly monitored, lessons learned compiled and disseminated

49. The project will include regular monitoring through the Project Implementation Report (PIR) process, as well as a Mid-term review and final evaluation. Lessons learned will be compiled and disseminated in a transparent and participatory manner, incorporating insights from women's groups.

50. During the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, the inter-ministerial working group will further discuss the potential for public access to information, results and trainings generated by the project, to ensure sustainability and consistent capacity building.

51. This project will contribute to the improvement of local, regional and global environmental conditions through enhancing transparency related to GHG emissions, impacts of climate change, and mitigation and adaptation actions in the country. Capacities strengthened shall enable mainstreaming climate change consideration into sectoral climate policies and will feed the next NDC. A strengthened MRV will allow the government to better assess investments in mitigation or adaptation measures and may result in more efficient expenditures on climate-related activities, which in turn could increase reductions in GHG emissions. Improved MRV will also allow the government to compare the relative costs and benefits of mitigation and adaptation measures, and it may highlight cost-effective, high-impact adaptation measures.

52. Key stakeholders, including representatives from the Government, Academia & Research, Private Sector, NGOs, and women's associations, have been identified for detailed engagement in the project. Their roles and means of involvement are outlined in the Table below. The stakeholders identified below will participate in and benefit from the capacity-building actions across all outcomes, ensuring diverse perspectives and enriching discussions.

Table 2. Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
Governmental Institutions			
Ministry level (including subordinated institutions)			
Ministry of Environment (MoE)	Project’s Executing Entity (through the Office for Environmental Projects Implementation (OEPI)); Overall coordination and consultations with other stakeholders;	Project Board member Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities Regional/Global initiatives	Subordinated policy-implementing institutions and structures

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	<p>Key role in strengthening institutional cooperation, as well as communication with all other stakeholders and public;</p> <p>Hosts the National Climate Change Commission (NCCC) with two technical committees (in adaptation and mitigation) (Climate Action Law under modification, to be finalized by mid-2024);</p> <p>National Focal Point to the UNFCCC (including on migration and gender);</p> <p>Reports to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).</p>	<p>Transboundary & Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of climate policies and actions</p> <p>Quality Assurance/Quality control (QA/QC) activities</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p>	
<p>National Office for Environmental Project Implementation</p>	<p>Key unit in providing climate-related data including GHG emission information;</p> <p>Key expertise on project implementation on adaptation agenda;</p> <p>Represents the secretariat of the NCCC.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	
<p>Environmental Agency</p>	<p>Responsible for providing data on atmospheric pollutants and GHG emissions;</p> <p>Operates the National System for Monitoring and Reporting (NSMR) of GHG emissions and other climate data;</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	<p>District-level territorial units</p>

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	Supports developments of national communications and updated reporting.		
Agency Moldsilva	<p>Responsible for providing data on state public forest estate (including forest protected areas);</p> <p>Provider of data on forest loss and/or damage caused by climatic factors (directly and indirectly);</p> <p>Executive entity for the National Forest Extension and Rehabilitation Programme 2023-2032.</p>	<p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	<p>State Forest Enterprises,</p> <p>Protected Area units</p>
Agency Moldovan Waters	<p>Provider of data on the use of groundwater and its management (including changes driven by climate/warming);</p> <p>Key institution in tackling water issues in relation to climate change.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	<p>Water operators and users.</p>
State Hydrometeorological Service	<p>Main data provider for hydrometeorological conditions;</p> <p>Provides systematic agrometeorological and hydrological observations and monitoring;</p> <p>Analysis and forecasts for conditions and changes in weather, climate and water, including extreme climate events;</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	<p>Nation-wide</p> <p>Citizens as main beneficiaries of data/information.</p>

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	Operates the National Hydrometeorological Data Fund.		
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI)	<p>Responsible for incorporating climate change adaptation measures into policies and strategies developed;</p> <p>Key partner for mainstreaming climate change in food production systems;</p> <p>GHG inventory and mitigation data provider for the agricultural sector;</p> <p>Collaborator in Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment.</p>	<p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	<p>Key institutions responsible for policy implementation</p> <p>Farmers</p> <p>Agricultural producers</p>
Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture (AIPA)	<p>Helps adapt regulatory framework for agricultural subsidy to support agricultural producers and rural development;</p> <p>Assists in preventing negative impacts and combating consequences of extreme weather in agriculture.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	<p>Farmers & Land-owners practicing agriculture.</p>
Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization	<p>Key governmental body responsible for economic development and investments;</p> <p>Data provider for the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory and mitigation scenarios;</p>	<p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial audience</p> <p>Business (through policy)</p>

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	Plans economic coverage and implements activities to reduce GHG emissions.	MRV of climate policies and actions QA/QC activities	
Ministry of Finance	Plays key role in the country's adaptation planning; Facilitates all national and sectoral priorities are defined and implemented through dedicated budget allocations; Key governmental body responsible for effective management of public funds; Data provider on expenditures and finances.	Policy dialogues Consultations on financing Trainings Workshops Bilateral meetings Surveys Regional initiatives MRV of climate policies and actions	Accounting audience
Ministry for Infrastructure and Regional Development	Mainstreams climate change policies into road infrastructure and transport; Enhances climate resilience of built-in infrastructure and climate-efficient modern buildings; Ensures access to water and safe sanitary systems through adequate investments; Promotes climate agenda into urban development policy.	Workshops Trainings Bilateral meetings Policy dialogs Surveys Regional initiatives MRV of climate policies and actions	Operators and users, companies dealing with construction.
The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Data and policy support provider for gender responsive climate policies, including equitable social systems;	Workshops Trainings Policy dialogs	National-wide through ensuring equitability of men and women

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	<p>Collaborator in the V&A assessments, including providing demographic data;</p> <p>Advances Gender and Climate Change Agenda.</p>	<p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p>	
Ministry of Health	<p>Data provider for the vulnerability of the health sector to climate change;</p> <p>Collaborator in the V&A assessment of the health sector;</p> <p>Lead institution to implement climate change adaptation policies and actions in health sector.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	Hospitals
Ministry of Education and Research	<p>Data provider for education and research;</p> <p>Collaborator in the research and education assessments;</p> <p>Lead institution to mainstream climate change considerations into the education process.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p> <p>Innovative solutions</p> <p>Surveys</p>	Research audience, students and masters
National Agency for Research and Development (NARD)	<p>Responsible for data on innovations and related policy;</p> <p>Coordinates Moldovan Office for Science and Technology in Brussels (MOST).</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p> <p>Innovative solutions</p> <p>Surveys</p>	
Ministry of Energy	<p>Proposes justified state interventions to energy sector;</p> <p>Promotes effective solutions for green transition, including electricity</p>	<p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p>	<p>Energy-related companies</p> <p>Green energy units/firms</p>

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	<p>production from renewable sources</p> <p>Ensures policies for energy efficiency.</p> <p>Diversification of energy sources to reduce dependency on external sources.</p>	<p>Surveys</p> <p>Regional initiatives</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	
Energy Efficiency Agency (EEA)	<p>Implements climate change adaptation and resilience measures for energy projects.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p>	All interested in energy efficiency
Ministry of Interior	<p>Promotes state policy for prevention and liquidation of emergencies;</p> <p>Ensures civil protection and first-aid in exceptional situations, including of climatic origin.</p>	<p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>QA/QC activities</p>	Sub-divisions dealing with addressing abiotic/climatic situations and emergency
General Inspectorate for Emergency (under Ministry of Interior)	<p>Intervenes in areas affected by natural/climatic or bio-social calamity;</p> <p>Provider of data on loss and damage (including undertaken measures and actions).</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Trainings</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	People in need
Administrative-territorial units (ATU)			
Local Public Authorities of Villages/communes and municipalities (Level I)	<p>Key institutions for mainstreaming national climate policies at local level of villages (or communes) and cities/towns;</p> <p>Main supporter of climate budget tagging implementation.</p>	<p>Trainings</p> <p>Bilateral meetings</p> <p>Policy dialogs</p> <p>MRV of climate policies and actions</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	1681 local public authorities, including 13 town/city-level municipalities

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
Local Public Authorities of Districts/Rayons (Level II)	Key institutions for mainstreaming national climate policies at district level; Main supporter of climate budget tagging implementation.	Trainings Bilateral meetings Policy dialogs MRV of climate policies and actions Transfer of knowledge	32 district units (=rayons)
Central administrative authorities (part of Government structure)			
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)	Main data collector/provider in all areas, including the Sustainable Development Goals; Prepares and adopts uniform statistical standards with credible data/information; Publishes Annual Statistics Reports.	Workshops Bilateral meetings Surveys MRV of climate policies and actions Transfer of knowledge	Nation-wide
National Agency for Research and Development	Ensures performances in implementing innovative research for development; Promotes climate change agenda into national planning.	Workshops Bilateral meetings Surveys Transfer of knowledge	Research, innovation (youth involvement)
Agency for Land Relations and Cadaster	Supports sustainable land/territorial organization and cadastral functions, including climate agenda; Provider of data for degraded lands and uses.	Workshops Bilateral meetings Surveys Transfer of knowledge	All persons and agents interested
Academia & Research			
Institute of Ecology and Geography	Key institution for modelling GHG projections and emission actions; Provides data/experience on ecosystem/landscape level	Trainings Mentorships Transfer of knowledge	Applied science

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	through climate change scenarios and prognoses.		
State University of Moldova, including the Institute of Public Administration	<p>Promotes climate agenda in their education/training curricula;</p> <p>Training and professional development of staff from the public service;</p> <p>Provide expertise, methodological and informational assistance to public authorities/institutions</p>	<p>Transfer of knowledge</p> <p>Mentorships</p>	Students, masters
Technical University of Moldova (TAUM)	Contributes to training and knowledge sharing on climate change, including impact mitigation on agriculture.	<p>Trainings</p> <p>Mentorships</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	<p>Farmers</p> <p>Agriculture practitioners</p>
Research Institute of Field Crops “Selectia”	Provides data/experience on soil management and crops used under climate changing.	<p>Trainings</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	Practitioners (individual farmers)
Forest Research and Management Institute (ICAS Chisinau)	<p>Key resource unit for providing forest and agroforestry data/information with reference to climate vulnerability;</p> <p>Undertakes planning operations on increased forest ecosystem resilience.</p>	<p>Trainings</p> <p>Mentorships</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	Practitioners (forest personnel, forest owners etc.)
Private sector			
National Patronage Confederation of the Republic of Moldova	<p>Valuable partner for implementation of mitigation policies and measures;</p> <p>Promotes climate agenda for SME and other businesses.</p>	<p>Workshops</p> <p>Focus Groups</p> <p>Transfer of knowledge</p>	Businesses

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
Chamber for Commerce and Industry	Valuable partner for attracting businesses to project implementation; Promotes climatic agenda into dual education.	Workshops Focus Groups Meetings of governmental working groups/commissions Trainings Regional/International Initiatives Transfer of knowledge	Private sector, businesses
NGO community			
Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables (AEER)	Supports policy development on climate change legislation; Supports efficient implementation of the MRV of climate policies and actions; Promotes social dialogues and public engagement; Identify/share good practices and support development of policy recommendations.	MRV of climate policies and actions Workshops Trainings Bilateral meetings Policy dialogs Regional initiatives Transfer of knowledge	Householders, building owners
Association of Environmental Journalists and Ecological Tourism	Enhances public participation in the project, along with Moldova's accession to the EU; Ensures communication and awareness processes are in place; Actively engages in project implementation and consultation process;	MRV of climate policies and actions Workshops Trainings Bilateral meetings Policy dialogs Regional initiatives Transfer of knowledge	Young journalists, civil society

Stakeholder name	Role in the project	Means of engagement	Target groups & people
	Ensures engagement of youth and environmentalists.		
National Environmental Centre (NEC)	Ensures liaisons between state, public and civil society; Engages in project implementation and consultation process; Ensures independent data collection and processing. Enhances transparency in the entire process.	MRV of climate policies and actions Workshops Trainings Bilateral meetings Policy dialogs Regional initiatives Transfer of knowledge	Civil society
Gender NGOs: Environmental Association “ProMediu” [14] Gender Centru [15] Gradina Moldovei [16]	Ensures gender aspects and perspective of women associations are considered during project implementation. Engages in project implementation and consultations (including gender-based). Participates in data collection and processing. Actively engages in transparency processes.	MRV of climate policies and actions Workshops Analyses and assessments Meetings and dialogues Transfer of knowledge	Civil society (especially private/individual farmers, land use), women, vulnerable groups

53. The project is designed to be sustainable in two ways: 1) It focuses on strengthening and utilizing the capacity of existing institutions rather than creating new structures; and 2) It shifts from a project-based model of MRV and reporting to a continuous process model. In the long-term, support from both the government and from EU accession funds (IPA) is anticipated. The CBIT capacity strengthening activities will meet a current acute gap, as IPA funding is focused on legislative and regulatory support rather than capacity strengthening.

54. The potential to scale up certain components of the project is high, as good practice in MRV on climate actions will be applicable and related to other international conventions and national-level project monitoring. There is also significant potential to scale up training materials, toolkits, and software applications created by the project in other countries in the region, as well as to strengthen networking in

Eurasia region. Other approaches developed for monitoring adaptation projects, classifying and monitoring support received, and mainstreaming gender considerations into MRV can be shared at a regional or even global level through organizations such as the Global Coordination Platform.

[1] The FAO eLearning Academy, known for its multilingual certified courses offered free of charge, can serve as a valuable resource for the project's professionals. With its focus on universal education and inclusivity, the Academy provides an opportunity for project stakeholders to enhance their skills in food and nutrition security, social and economic development, and sustainable resource management. The Academy's digital badge certification system offers a flexible way for professionals to gain relevant competencies, aligning with the project's goals of capacity building and knowledge enhancement.

[2] Approved by Parliament on 11 April 2024 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=143228&lang=ro), promulgated by the President on 15 May 2024 (https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=143226&lang=ro).

[3] clima.gov.md/climate-next Note: content development is ongoing, with plans to launch the portal by the end of this year.)

[4] <http://www.clima.md/lib.php?l=en&idc=81>

https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kaan_basaran_fao_org1/Documents/Documents%20-%20REU/COUNTRIES/MOL%20-%20Republic%20of%20Moldova/Projects/2.%20TFs%20ongoing/GEF/GEF-8/GEF%20-%20CBIT/MOLDOVA%20PIF_CBIT_June24.docx - ftnref2

https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kaan_basaran_fao_org1/Documents/Documents%20-%20REU/COUNTRIES/MOL%20-%20Republic%20of%20Moldova/Projects/2.%20TFs%20ongoing/GEF/GEF-8/GEF%20-%20CBIT/MOLDOVA%20PIF_CBIT_June24.docx - ftnref2

https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kaan_basaran_fao_org1/Documents/Documents%20-%20REU/COUNTRIES/MOL%20-%20Republic%20of%20Moldova/Projects/2.%20TFs%20ongoing/GEF/GEF-8/GEF%20-%20CBIT/MOLDOVA%20PIF_CBIT_June24.docx - ftnref2

[5] Example for using micronarratives to assess gender perception on climate change available here <https://klimatskipromeni.mk/article/663>

https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kaan_basaran_fao_org1/Documents/Documents%20-%20REU/COUNTRIES/MOL%20-%20Republic%20of%20Moldova/Projects/2.%20TFs%20ongoing/GEF/GEF-8/GEF%20-%20CBIT/MOLDOVA%20PIF_CBIT_June24.docx - ftnref2

https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/kaan_basaran_fao_org1/Documents/Documents%20-%20REU/COUNTRIES/MOL%20-%20Republic%20of%20Moldova/Projects/2.%20TFs%20ongoing/GEF/GEF-8/GEF%20-%20CBIT/MOLDOVA%20PIF_CBIT_June24.docx - ftnref2

[6] Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors: Climate Change Adaptation Indicators (FAO 2017). <https://www.fao.org/3/i8145e/i8145e.pdf>

[7] Reporting Adaptation through the Biennial Transparency Report. A practical explanation of the guidance. UNEP and DTU (2020). https://climateactiontransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reporting-adaptation-through-the-biennial-transparency-report-an-explanation-of-the-guidance_ICAT_UNEP-DTU-PARTNERSHIP-min.pdf

[8] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=608>

[9] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=439>

[10] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=578>

[11] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=579>

[12] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=435>

[13] <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=437>

[14] <https://www.pro-mediu.md/>

[15] <http://www.gender-centru.md/en/about.html>

[16] https://gradinamd-com.translate.google/?_x_tr_sl=ro&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en&_x_tr_pto=sc

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

55. Several ongoing projects (see Table 1 above) have been identified as complementary to this CBIT proposal, requiring effective coordination to prevent duplication of work and maximize synergies. This project shall further coordinate with the global Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), the FAO Global capacity building towards enhanced transparency (CBIT-AFOLU+) [1] and with the FAO CBIT Forests Global Project [2] (all financed by the GEF). Through regional networks, various activities are provided through CBIT GSP including in-person workshops and trainings, e.g., on NDC tracking, virtual knowledge-sharing events among countries, on tracking support needed and received, and national support activities, recommendations for institutional arrangements in countries or the identification of indicators for a country's NDC. To ensure better coordination of the CBIT project with GEF-financed transparency initiatives in other countries, information on this project will be uploaded into the GEF-CBIT Global Coordination Platform database contributing to the effective project tracking and to allow for joint reporting.

56. The MoE will be responsible for executing the project, with oversight from FAO as the GEF agency. FAO will share its knowledge, experience, and best practices in data collection, analysis, management, and coordination of ETF-compliant reporting across sectors, aiming for independent government implementation and coordination in the future. A Project Management Unit (PMU); working under the MoE as the executing partner; will manage day-to-day activities, financial and administrative reporting, and ensure efficient project management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring based on annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs), guided by the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PMU will include a full-time National Project Manager and Project Assistant overseeing implementation, management, administration, and technical supervision. The PMU will manage the project on behalf of the Operational Partner, adhering to the framework outlined by the PSC.

57. The project will significantly strengthen the capacities of Moldova's national, subnational, and local institutions in climate change management, with a focus on enhancing their transparency activities. Through detailed participatory capacity assessments, these institutions will gain insights into their specific needs, allowing for the design of tailored training and mentorship programs. This targeted approach will ensure continuous learning, enabling institutions to more effectively source, collect, and analyze climate data. By equipping individuals with the necessary skills to amend policies and monitor the effectiveness of climate actions, the project will support Moldova in meeting its transparency obligations under the Article 13 of the

Paris Agreement. The program will include gender-sensitive training for women, youth, and vulnerable groups to ensure inclusivity in climate actions. Moreover, the project will develop a Climate Change Knowledge Management plan and a Climate Change Communication plan for the period 2025-2030, facilitating effective dissemination of information. By incorporating lessons learned into the PIR process and ensuring the accessibility of these materials through a national climate knowledge management system, the project aims to create a robust learning environment that supports continuous capacity development and effective participation in climate-related decision-making. The project will also design and implement a strategic communication plan aimed at enhancing the understanding and engagement of policymakers, stakeholders, and the public in Moldova's climate actions. This approach will involve creating policy briefs that distill complex climate data into clear, actionable insights, making it easier for decision-makers to design informed policies. By strategically targeting key audiences and facilitating dialogue, the project will ensure that climate-related information is effectively communicated and utilized to drive meaningful action.

[1] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11316>

[2] Project "Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising" <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11308>

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)
Female	241			
Male	242			
Total	483	0	0	0

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

A minimum of 483 individuals will benefit from the project interventions, including at least three representatives from all key stakeholders identified in Table 2 [governmental institutions at Ministry level (including subordinated institutions), local public authorities, academia & research, private sector and NGO community], two representatives from each of the 32 districts, five municipalities, and two regions with special status, and a minimum of 300 members (mostly MSMEs) connected through the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Moldova. The project aims for at least 50% women among the beneficiaries.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	Risk: Severe climate extremes could potentially cause delays during project implementation, although this is not anticipated.

		Mitigation measures: The project envisages activities to enhance climate resilience in the country, especially for most vulnerable districts.
Environmental and Social	Low	Risk: Gender inequality and exclusion of vulnerable groups during project design and implementation Mitigation measures: Gender-sensitive approaches in project design and implementation, as well as gender specific capacity building activities envisaged in output 1, shall ensure equal participation and benefits for all genders and vulnerable groups
Political and Governance	Moderate	Risk: Transparency activities would not be considered sufficiently important by the Moldova's Government to ensure adequate participation in and support for project activities; resources and attention would be diverted to other issues. Mitigation measures: The project is explicitly designed to link enhanced transparency activities to high-level political priorities in the country such as EU accession[1] (having to deliver tangible results in several areas – fighting corruption, judiciary sector reform, and de-oligarchization). This linkage will ensure that the project maintains high-level support. In addition, awareness-raising activities for target groups such as parliamentarians and journalists will increase the constituency supporting action in these areas. Moreover, the UNFCCC focal point, FAO, and the project team will closely engage in regular and open dialogue with policy makers to educate them about the importance of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement obligations and their potential benefits to the country. The project also envisages the launch of public awareness campaigns to generate public support for climate action, which can influence policy makers' decisions. [1] The main obstacles and challenges to implementation of climate policies include limited administrative capacity, fragmented sectoral policies and absence of a whole-of-government oversight on implementation of climate policies and commitments, and insufficient monitoring and checks of greenhouse gas emissions, including the reliability of data across the country.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	Risk: Lack of alignment or integration of climate change strategies and policies with broader national development plans. Mitigation measures: the project focuses on promoting coordination and coherence between climate strategies and other national development plans. Project activities involve engaging with key stakeholders across government ministries and departments to ensure that climate considerations are integrated into relevant policy documents and strategies. Additionally, the project supports capacity building and awareness-raising efforts to enhance understanding of the importance of aligning climate strategies with broader development goals among policymakers and decision-makers.
Technological	Low	Risk: Reliance on outdated or inadequate technologies or methodologies for data collection, analysis, or reporting, which could compromise the accuracy or effectiveness of the project's outcomes. Mitigation measures: project prioritizes the use of innovative, reliable, and appropriate technologies and

		methodologies for data collection, management, analysis, and reporting, along with best practices and technological advancements from other countries.
Financial and Business Model	Low	Risk: Potential climate impact on the country's economy, including infrastructure damage. Mitigation measures: the project shall enhance the capacity of government institutions to incorporate climate risk assessments into macroeconomic planning and policymaking.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Risk: Lack of qualified personnel and people, especially on the local level. Mitigation measures: The PMU team shall support the Government in the implementation of this project. Additionally, FAO will provide continuous support and oversight throughout the project's implementation and ensure that every risk mitigation mechanism is put in place.
Fiduciary	Low	Risk: Mismanagement or misuse of project funds, leading to inefficiencies or delays in project implementation. Mitigation measures: FAO shall ensure robust financial management procedures and controls, including clear guidelines for budgeting, expenditure tracking, and financial reporting. This could involve conducting regular financial audits and reviews to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of project funds.
Stakeholder	Low	Risk: Inadequate or ineffective communication with key stakeholders, leading to misunderstandings, resistance to project activities, or lack of support. Mitigation measures: a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan has been proposed, that includes clear communication strategies, channels, and timelines. This plan identifies all relevant stakeholders, their interests, and potential concerns, and outlines how the project will engage with them throughout the project lifecycle.
Other	Moderate	Risk: Frequent institutional reorganization leads to lack of continuity, loss of data and institutional memory. Mitigation measures: To mitigate the risk of knowledge loss, the project will implement a transparent knowledge transfer mechanism based on project activities and the developed Knowledge Management plan. This will ensure the retention of sustained capacities in the institutions involved. Risk: Low coordination among institutions and stakeholders in the project implementation process. Mitigation measures: Detailed activities and means of engagement related to the strengthening of institutional arrangements and a Stakeholders Engagement plan are outlined in this document. The institutional arrangements will ensure that lessons are considered across ministries and sectors, with all relevant stakeholders providing inputs to and learning from the project. Synergies will be built with the ongoing development projects stipulated in this project document.

Overall Risk Rating	Low	The identified risks are not expected to hinder the project's implementation and relevant mitigation measures should be effective in diffusing any prohibitive affect the risks may have.
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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)

58. The proposed project is in line with the Pillar II (Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies) and objective 2.1 (Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT) of GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy and Associated Programming [19]. The proposed project is consistent with all recent climate change reporting to the UNFCCC, as described in Section A. The project is also consistent with the national priorities regarding EU accession, including the policies such as the Pre-Accession Economic Programme, and with sectoral strategies that have informed the NDC, such as the Energy Strategy until 2030, the Low Emission Development Strategy until 2030, Waste Management Strategy.

[19] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_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: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

59. Consultations were held with representatives from the below listed organizations, during the formulation of the PIF, within the period of October to December 2023:

Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Public Institution 'National Environmental Project Implementation Office' under the Ministry of Environment; Forest Research and Management Institute; State Agency 'Moldsilva'; Environmental Agency; NGO 'BIOS'; NGO 'BIOTICA Ecological Society'; UNEP; EU Delegation and UNDP.

60. A presentation and a validation meeting/consultation was also conducted by the Project Formulation Team, FAO Moldova Country Office Representatives, FAO Technical Officer and GEF Specialist together with the representatives from the Ministry of Environment of Moldova; on 1 March 2024. Aliona Rusnac; the State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Galina Noroceca; Main Consultant, Climate Change Policy Division, Ministry of Environment have participated in the meeting from the MoE side.

61. The objective of the meeting was to present and exchange opinion on draft PIF CBIT. First, the Assistant FAO Representative, Tudor Robu made a short overview on the status and steps undertaken towards formulation of CBIT PIF. The FAO Natural Resources Officer at the Regional Office for Europe, Jeremy Schlickerrieder presented FAO CBIT initiative at global level and the GEF Project Design Specialist Pavlina Zdraveva made a brief presentation of the main components of the PIF.

62. After the Q&A session, representatives of MoE learned more about the roadmap after submission of PIF. Following this meeting, the Ministry of Environment returned with the suggestion to include a separate key component in the PIF dedicated to enhancing national technical capacity and inter-sectoral cooperation to support implementation of the climate change adaptation policies and measures in Moldova's Low Emission Development Program (LEDP) and the National Program for Adapting to Climate Change (NPACC). The proposal was completely taken into account and included in the final version of the document.

(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 Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
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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/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Moldova	Climate Change	CBIT Set- Aside	Grant	1,776,484.00	168,766.00	1,945,250.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,776,484.00	168,766.00	1,945,250.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Moldova	Climate Change	CBIT Set- Aside	Grant	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ 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	1,776,484.00	900000
Total Project Cost		1,776,484.00	900,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	845000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	55000
Total Co-financing				900,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Government co-financing comes from the recurrent expenditures identified in "National Programme on Climate Change Adaptation" (USD 435,000); "National Development Programme for Reducing the Emissions" (USD 410,000) and the budget of the Implementation Unit of the Environment Projects under the Ministry of Environment (USD 30,000).

The investment mobilized of FAO co-financing comes from the "Support to development and implementation of integrated policies in the agrifood sector (TCP/MOL/3902/C1)" project (USD 30,000) and "Supporting agriculture policies on strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers (TCP/MOL/3905/C3)" project (USD 25,000).

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Jeffrey Griffin	6/21/2024	Senior Coordinator, GEF Coordination Unit	00390657055680	Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org
Project Coordinator	Kaan Evren Basaran	6/17/2024	GEF Support Specialist, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia	05078986087	Kaan.Basaran@fao.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Petru Tataru	Secretary General	Ministry of Environment	5/22/2023
Aliona Rusnac	State Secretary	Ministry of Environment	9/19/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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



Map No. 3759 Rev. 5 UNITED NATIONS
February 2013

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

Source: [UN Geospatial database](#)

Coordinates: 47.4116° N, 28.3699° E

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

Moldova_CBIT_Climate Screening

Moldova CBIT ESS Checklist

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 and decision-making		
Stakeholders	Type of Engagement	Partnership	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity Development		
	Knowledge and Learning	Knowledge Management	
Gender Equality	Gender Mainstreaming	Sex-disaggregated indicators	
Focal Area/Theme	Climate Change	Climate Change Adaptation	Climate Finance
		Climate Change Mitigation	Financing
		United Nations Framework on Climate Change	Nationally Determined Contribution
			Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency