



GEF-8 REQUEST FOR Climate Change enabling activity

Proposal for Funding Under the GET
Processing Type: Expedite

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SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Enabling Activity Title

Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined BTR/National Communications (BTR/NCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Country(ies)	GEF Enabling Activity ID
Global	12286
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Enabling Activity ID
UNEP	251506
Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start
2/25/2026	4/1/2026
Project Executing Entity(s):	Executing Partner Type
Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (RECC), Azerbaijan UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), Iraq Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi	CSO GEF Agency Government Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Expected Duration (In Months)
Climate Change	56
Type of Report(s)	Expected Report Submission to Convention
UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Report/ National Communication (BTR/NC)	12/31/2026 12/31/2028

A. Funding Elements

GEF-8 Program	Trust Fund	GEF Financing (\$)
CCM-EA	GET	4,932,000.00
Total Enabling Activity Cost		4,932,000.00

Does the enabling activity deviate from typical cost ranges? Yes No

If yes, please describe

N/A

B. Enabling Activity Summary

Enabling Activity Objective

The project aims to support four countries—Azerbaijan, Iraq, Liberia, and Malawi—to each prepare and submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and combined Biennial Transparency Report / National Communications (BTR/NCs) that will comply with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement reporting requirements, while responding to national development goals.

Enabling Activity Summary

This project is designed to support national governments to prepare national climate reports which play a critical role under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. These reports provide a transparent and structured framework for countries to report on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, progress towards Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation actions, and support needed or received. They are also essential for tracking national and global progress, informing the global stocktake, and fostering trust and accountability among Parties.

The 24th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP24) made two decisions that were essential to country reporting: 1) Parties were to submit their first BTR (BTR1) by December 31, 2024 (FCCC/CP/2018/10/Add.1, para. 38) and then every two years; and 2) Parties had the option to meet their obligation to submit a National Communication (NC) by submitting a combined BTR/NC consisting of a BTR and supplementary chapters on research hand systematic observation and on education, training, and public awareness, in accordance with the guidelines contained in, as applicable, decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8 (para. 43.b.i).

This Medium-Sized Project (MSP) leverages two key elements to enhance efficiency and coherence, i.e., it consolidates four country proposals into a single submission to the GEF, as well as utilizing the GEF’s bundled approach to project design, which allows each country to request funding to prepare both a BTR and a combined NC/BTR. The project will produce a total of eight reports: four BTRs and four combined BTR/NC reports.

The project is designed with one project outcome: - i.e., 1.1. Participating countries have increased capacity to meet reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the UNFCCC; and will be realized through three outputs: -

- Participating countries will spend the first two years of the project preparing reports (Output 1.1.1) for the 2026 submission cycle;
- Output 2.1.1 will ensure that the project is effectively monitored and evaluated
- Followed by the preparation of their subsequent reports (Output 1.1.2) during the second two years for the 2028 submission cycle;

Party	First Report (Output 1.1.1)	Second Report (Output 1.1.2)
1. Azerbaijan	BTR2/NC5	BTR3
2. Iraq	BTR2	BTR3/NC3
3. Liberia	BTR2	BTR3/NC4
4. Malawi	BTR2	BTR3/NC5

UNEP's technical expertise, global reach, and capacity-building support uniquely position it to continue guiding countries in launching subsequent BTRs, building on its past involvement. For countries yet to submit prior reports, funding is contingent on completing the preceding BTR or NC. Considering that Liberia's BTR1/NC3 is expected to be completed by March 2026, the preparation of its subsequent BTR2 will commence upon submission of BTR1 to the UNFCCC.

Though submitted under one proposal, each country's project reflects:

- Distinct national circumstances and capacities;
- Differing flexibility, reflecting differing reporting status of the countries, which include two countries that have Least Developed Country (LDC) status (Liberia and Malawi); and
- Continuity of institutional structures for long-term reporting performance.

The project will be implemented over 56 months to accommodate the flexibility allowed for BTR submission timelines and guarantee continuity of national teams and institutional structures established to support reporting, dissemination and uptake of report findings, including participation in the Facilitative, Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP) and the Technical Expert Review (TER) process in the period before follow-on funding for subsequent BTRs is obtained.

ENABLING ACTIVITY COMPONENTS

1. Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications (BTR/NCs)

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 2,368,975.00

Outcome:

1.1 Participating countries have increased capacity to meet reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the UNFCCC

Output:

1.1.1 Three BTR2 reports (Iraq, Liberia, Malawi) and one combined BTR2/NC5 report (Azerbaijan), prepared in a gender-responsive manner and submitted to UNFCCC

1. Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications (BTR/NCs)

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 2,059,665.00

Outcome:

1.1 Participating countries have increased capacity to meet reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the UNFCCC

Output:

1.1.2 One BTR3 report (Azerbaijan), one combined BTR3/NC3 report (Iraq), one combined BTR3/NC4 report (Liberia), and one BTR3/NC5 report (Malawi) prepared in a gender-responsive manner and submitted to UNFCCC

M&E

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 55,000.00

Outcome:

Output:

2.1.1 The GEF project is effectively monitored and evaluated

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$)
1. Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications (BTR/NCs)	2,368,975.00
1. Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications (BTR/NCs)	2,059,665.00
M&E	55,000.00
Subtotal	4,483,640.00
Project Management Cost	448,360.00
Total Enabling Activity Cost	4,932,000.00

Please provide justification

N/A

SECTION 2: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUPPORTING INFORMATION
C. Eligibility Criteria

Please provide eligibility information for this enabling activity.

Regular reporting by countries of transparent information on climate action and the implementation of their national objectives provides a snapshot of global progress in relation to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, contributing to a global assessment of collective progress. The reporting process also generates valuable data and information that can be used for country decision-making. A brief overview of the eligibility of the four participating countries to access GEF resources is provided below in Table C.1.

Table C.1: Country Reporting Status and Eligibility for GEF Climate Change Enabling Activity Resources

PARTY	PARIS AGREEMENT		REPORT PREPARATION STATUS			REQUESTED FUNDING FOR: -
	Ratification Date	Latest Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submission	NC Preparation Status	BUR Preparation Status	BTR Preparation Status	
1. Azerbaijan	09 Jan 2017	2025	NC4 submitted Jun 2021	BUR3 under finalization; planned submission by Mar 2026	BTR1 submitted Nov 2024	BTR2/NC5 + BTR3
2. Iraq	01 Nov 2021	2025	NC2 submitted Sep 2025	BUR1 submitted Sep 2025	BTR1 submitted Sep 2025	BTR2 + BTR3/NC3
3. Liberia	27 Aug 2018	2025	NC2 submitted Apr 2021 NC3 component under preparation as part of BTR1	BUR1 submitted Apr 2021	BTR1/NC3 under preparation; planned submission in Mar 2026	BTR2 + BTR3/NC4
4. Malawi	29 Jun 2017	2021	NC4 submitted Oct 2025 as part of BTR1	BUR1 submitted Jun 2022	BTR1 submitted Oct 2025	BTR2 + BTR3/NC5

The project is aligned with Objective 2.2 under Pillar II of the GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy. It is also aligned with UNEP's 2026–2029 Medium-Term Strategic Objective a) to reduce emissions and enhance adaptation and resilience; and with Outcome 2: Strengthened governance to meet international environmental commitments, promote environmental law, and support implementation of national obligations to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The project builds on findings and recommendations from previous country reports and lessons learned during the implementation of the BTR1 projects, and for Azerbaijan, a TER.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OUTPUTS

The project has been designed to support four national governments to fulfill essential reporting requirements of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Under this project, the four countries will prepare a total of eight reports for submission to the UNFCCC as indicated below: -

The content of all reports produced under these outputs will be determined by guidance in Articles 4, 7, 9-11, and 13 of the Paris Agreement and the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework for action and support as specified in FCCC/PA/CMA/2018/3/Add.2. Moreover, as adopted at COP 26 in Decision 5/CMA.3, the following will be observed: (i) outlines for the BTR & national inventory document (NID); (ii) the common reporting tables (CRTs) and common tabular formats (CTFs) for reporting the GHG Inventory, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) progress, financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, as well as support needed and received (FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.2).

The content of the combined BTR/NC reports will also be determined by guidance provided under FCCC/CP/2018/10/Add.1, which states that “Parties may submit their national communication and biennial transparency report as a single report in accordance with the modalities, procedures and guidelines included in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 for information also covered by the national communication reporting guidelines contained in, as applicable decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8 (para. 43a) and that “...Parties shall include in the report: Supplemental chapters on research and systematic observation and on education, training and public awareness, in accordance with the guidelines contained in, as applicable, decisions 4/CP.5 and 17/CP.8 (para. 43b.i).

In addition, the project has incorporated additional time after submission of reports to the UNFCCC, which is critical in ensuring continuity in capacity building on two levels. The additional time will not only allow national teams to effectively participate in the TER process and the FCMP process, but it will permit them to undertake a stocktaking process that allows them to identify additional lessons learned in project implementation arrangements and best practices in reporting. This information will feed into the operational completion report, which summarizes the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

The following section provides a description of the three outputs. Country-specific budgets are presented in separate worksheets, which are contained in annexes to this document.

OUTPUT 1.1.1. THREE BTR2 REPORTS (IRAQ, LIBERIA, MALAWI) AND ONE COMBINED BTR2/NC5 REPORT (AZERBAIJAN), PREPARED IN A GENDER-RESPONSIVE MANNER AND SUBMITTED TO UNFCCC

Regular reporting by countries of transparent information on climate action and the implementation of their national objectives provides a snapshot of global progress in relation to the objectives of the Paris Agreement, contributing to a global assessment of collective progress. The reporting process also generates valuable data and information that can be used for country decision-making.

A brief overview of the eligibility of the four participating countries to access GEF resources is provided below in Table C.1.

- Azerbaijan - BTR2/NC5 and BTR3
- Iraq - BTR2 and BTR3/NC3

- Liberia - BTR2 and BTR3/NC4
- Malawi - BTR2 and BTR3/NC5

The BTR2 reports submitted under Output 1.1.1 (Iraq, Liberia, Malawi) will include the following content:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases
- Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
- Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement
- Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
- Other relevant information (e.g., gender)

The BTR2/NC report under Output 1.1.1 (Azerbaijan) will also include the following supplemental chapters under ‘other relevant information’ to comply with the requirements of an NC:

- Research and systematic observation
- Education, training and public awareness

OUTPUT 1.1.2. ONE BTR3 REPORT (AZERBAIJAN), ONE COMBINED BTR3/NC3 REPORT (IRAQ), ONE COMBINED BTR3/NC4 REPORT (LIBERIA), AND ONE BTR3/NC5 REPORT (MALAWI) PREPARED IN A GENDER-RESPONSIVE MANNER AND SUBMITTED TO UNFCCC

The BTR3 report submitted under Output 1.1.2 (Azerbaijan) will include the following content:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases
- Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement
- Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement
- Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
- Other relevant information (e.g., gender)

The combined BTR3/NC reports submitted under Output 1.1.2 (Iraq, Liberia, Malawi) will also include the following supplemental chapters under ‘other relevant information’ to comply with the requirements of an NC:

- Research and systematic observation
- Education, training and public awareness

The four initial reports and four subsequent reports are expected to be submitted to the UNFCCC for the submission cycles by December 2026 and December 2028, respectively. The content of these reports will

recognize the flexibility provided for developing countries that need it in the light of their capacities as per Decision 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties under the Paris Agreement (CMA), which states that flexibility will apply in the scope, frequency and level of detail in reporting under the agreement with special considerations for LDCs, which may submit information at their discretion.

The project approach provides several opportunities to strengthen and sustain capacity in participating countries. Each country has identified priority areas for improvement and capacity-strengthening as elaborated in the scope of reports for participating countries section and has allocated a budget for in-country workshops and trainings to address identified gaps. Additionally, a travel budget has been provided to support experts and a broad range of stakeholders' participation in engagement activities across all the three project outputs. The travel budget will enable experts to travel and participate in the inception and validation workshops, capacity-building activities under Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, and the mid-term lessons-learned workshop under Output 1.1.3. The use of Technical Working Groups / Technical Expert Groups for compiling report chapters also serves to maintain capacity that is developed. These groups can be maintained across reporting cycles to retain institutional knowledge and training. Specific activities in the projects also support data archiving.

The following section provides a summarized description of the scope of the reports that each of the participating countries will prepare under Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, with the corresponding budget for each output provided in **Annex B**.

SCOPE OF REPORTS FOR PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

(i) AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan submitted its first BTR1 and National Inventory Document (NID) in November 2024, which included its GHG inventory through the year 2022 (T-2), progress on NDC implementation, adaptation efforts, and support received and provided. The country also submitted its NDC 3.0 submission in 2025, which aims to achieve 40% emissions reduction by 2035, compared to 1990 through actions across all key sectors, including power, buildings, oil and gas, transportation, industry, waste, and agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU). The enabling activity project will coordinate closely with other donor-supported projects to collect reporting data. In the area of mitigation, these projects include “Transition towards low and no-emission Electric Mobility in Azerbaijan' (GEF ID 11076), “Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Phase V Project” (GEF ID 11099), “Supporting the ratification and phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons in production: A regional initiative for enhanced action in Central Asia and Eastern Europe (GEF ID 11881),” “Scaling up investment in energy efficiency in buildings through enhanced energy management information system (EMIS) and green social housing” (GEF ID 10402), and adaptation projects funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund.

While Azerbaijan met its ETF reporting obligations by submitting BTR1 to the UNFCCC on time, it still faces challenges related to transparency. High-priority needs and gaps identified during report preparation and its participation in the TER process, including an in-country exercise in May 2025, may be summarized as follow: Strengthening institutional capacities for the development of a robust national GHG inventory system by improving coordination among the various institutions involved in the inventory process; enhancing the quality, consistency, and availability of activity data across key sectors; and establishing a more solid regulatory and institutional framework that clearly defines roles and responsibilities to ensure sustained data flows, and to support long-term implementation. Capacity-building activities in the project will

therefore address activity data collection and analysis in key sectors and will raise overall awareness and skills among stakeholders.

In the area of gender, Azerbaijan's NDC 3.0 includes a dedicated section on women, youth, and vulnerable groups. Its BTR1 includes a discussion of gender issues in climate change adaptation and measures to address gender in climate change adaptation. The country has incorporated gender into the design of its activities and processes for this EA project with the support of a dedicated gender specialist and the involvement of the government's lead agency for gender, the State Committee on Family, Women, and Children's Affairs. Proposed activities are detailed in the gender analysis in Annex D.

1.1.1 (a) Azerbaijan's BTR2/NC5 will consist of:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks will be extended through the year 2024 (T-2) for the Energy, Industrial production and product use (IPPU), Agriculture, Land use, land-use change, and forestry, and Waste sectors using 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement; and the inventory that was submitted in the BTR1/NC5 will be recalculated as needed.
- Description of the country's NDC and information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its updated NDC.
- Description of the impacts of climate change adaptation and additional information to be included in the BTR2, corresponding to the Adaptation Communication as specified in Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and Decision 9/CMA.1., including vulnerability analyses in the water, agriculture, and coastal sectors, including information on the differences in vulnerability between women and men.
- Description of financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received (and eventually support provided and mobilized).
- Description of flexibility and improvements.
- Other relevant information, including gender considerations.
- Additional supplemental chapters specified by the guidelines for National Communications (research and systematic observation; education, training and public awareness) that update and expand on the information provided in the NC4.

1.1.2 (b) Azerbaijan's BTR3 will include updated information of all the BTR content listed above for the BTR2. In addition, Azerbaijan will also extend its National Inventory Report (NIR) through the year 2026 Tier 2 (T-2) for all sectors covered by BTR2, including an updated inventory as needed for selected years in the previous inventory between 1990 and 2024 using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and the 2019 refinement. The BTR3 report will also include a description of the loss and damage mechanism, flexibility, and improvements. Priority adaptation sectors will consist of the water, agriculture, and coastal sectors, including information on the differences in vulnerability between women and men.

(ii) IRAQ

In 2025, Iraq submitted its BTR1. This document represented an important advance – it extended the GHG inventory to the year 2022, reported on progress towards its NDC—a 22% reduction in emissions by 2035 relatively to a business as usual (BAU) scenario—and emphasized its very high vulnerability to climate change in the water and land sectors, reporting on its adaptation strategy, which focuses on water resource management and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Careful analysis following the preparation of the BTR has identified priorities for this enabling activity project that include the following: undertaking recalculations in the NIR section; preparing an energy balance that will enabling the use of national data for the inventory; improving activity data collection in all sectors; and quantifying categories that are currently not estimated. Following a recalculation of the GHG inventory, the project will also recalculate emissions in the base year of the BAU scenario will be incorporated into subsequent BTRs and NDCs. Iraq will also draw upon information and data collected through other initiatives, such as Green Climate Fund (GCF) support for adaptation planning, integrated landscape management in the Middle Euphrates (GEF ID 10672), and an NDC Partnership to implement Iraq’s NDCs in its 15 governorates and in Kurdistan.

The SNC of Iraq includes a section on equality between men and women. During the BTR 1 implementation period, to ensure balanced representation, capacity building workshops included both women and men. Invited speakers always included a 50-50 distribution between genders. Stakeholders who emphasize gender equality in their work were also included in the process. Gender-responsive facilitation and moderating techniques were employed during meetings to ensure that all voices were heard, and viewpoints captured. Gender-inclusive language was used in all communication materials to ensure inclusivity and respect for all genders. Detailed measures for gender mainstreaming for this project are outlined in the gender analysis in Annex D.

1.1.1 (b) Iraq’s BTR2 will consist of:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks through the year 2023 (T-3) for all IPCC sectors using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement.
- Description of the country’s NDC and information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC and strengthen reporting on underlying actions, progress, and results achieved or envisaged for the updated NDC and associated indicators.
- Description of the impacts of climate change, adaptation and additional information, including vulnerability and adaptation assessments for the water and agriculture sectors
- Description of financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received
- Other relevant information, focusing on climate and gender and including a description of improvements in reporting and flexibility utilized.

1.1.2 (b) Iraq’s BTR3/NC3 will include updated information of all the content listed above for the BTR2, and additional supplemental chapters specified by the guidelines for National Communications (research and systematic observation; education, training and public awareness) that update and expand on the information provided in the NC3. In addition, an NIR with an updated inventory through 2025 (T-3) using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement. The BTR3/NC3 report will

also include updated vulnerability and adaptation assessments in the areas covered by the BTR2, a description of the loss and damage mechanism, flexibility, and improvements.

(iii) LIBERIA

Liberia intends to submit its combined BTR1/NC3 report in March 2026, exercising its flexibility as an LDC under the Paris Agreement. The inaugural report under the Paris Agreement's ETF will include Common Reporting Tables (CRTs) for GHG inventories, mitigation progress tracking, and financial, technology, and capacity-building support needs. It also submitted an updated NDC 3.0 in 2025, which included an updated baseline calculated from a change in the base year. The NDC now has revised 2035 targets of a 10% unconditional reduction in emissions relative to the BAU and a 50% conditional reduction. Liberia's BTR1 identified the following needs and gaps: gaps in activity data for key sources (energy, AFOLU, waste), missing emission estimates, weak institutional and human resource capacity, and a high uncertainty (62.5 %) in the inventory when forestry and other land use (FOLU) is included. In addition, the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process for the BUR1 pointed to lack of country-specific emission factors, incomplete coverage of key source categories, weak MRV and domestic arrangements, and limited tracking of finance, technology transfer and capacity building. Training and capacity-building activities have therefore been incorporated into the country's project implementation plan to address both chapter-specific and cross-cutting needs with an emphasis on activity data collection and analysis and inventory management.

The proposed project will build on the previous CBIT project, which was completed in 2023. The project will also leverage data and processes from its current GCF project, "Enhancing Climate Information Systems for Resilient Development in Liberia" (SAP018), and from projects to increase urban resilience in the capital funded by the World Bank, the GCF, and the GEF.

The BTR1 of Liberia integrates gender issues through dedicated section, "Gender and Climate Change," which assesses the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and men across sectors and outlines actions to strengthen women's resilience, adaptive capacity, and leadership in climate governance. Activities in this project will build on that information and expand activities to include gender-related analysis in adaptation and support needed and received. Proposed measures are outlined in the gender analysis in Annex D.

1.1.1 (c) The BTR2 of Liberia will consist of the following components:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks through the year 2024 (T-2) for the Energy, IPPU, Agriculture, LULUCF, and Waste sectors using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
- Description of the country's NDC and information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC and strengthen reporting on underlying actions, progress, and results achieved or envisaged for the updated NDC and associated indicators.
- Description of the impacts of climate change, adaptation and additional information to be included in the BTR2, corresponding to an Adaptation Communication as specified in Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and Decision 9/CMA.1. This will include vulnerability and adaptation assessments for the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors, including information on differences in vulnerability between women and men.
- Description of financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received

- Other relevant information, focusing on climate and gender and including a description of improvements in reporting and flexibility utilized.

1.1.2 (c) The BTR3/NC4 of Liberia will include updated information of all the content listed above for the BTR2, and additional supplemental chapters specified by the guidelines for National Communications (research and systematic observation; education, training and public awareness) that update and expand on the information provided in the NC3. An NIR for the years 2025 and 2026 (T-2) for all sectors covered by BTR2 will also be prepared, including updated inventory through 2024 using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement. The BTR3/NC4 report will also include a description of the loss and damage mechanism, flexibility, and improvements.

(iv) MALAWI

Malawi submitted its BTR1 in October 2025. The report extended the country's national GHG inventory to 2022 (T-2) and reported on progress towards the country's NDC, which as an emissions reduction target of 51% by 2040 as compared to the business-as-usual scenario, covering the energy, industrial processes and product use (IPPU), waste, and AFOLU sectors. It also reported on vulnerability to climate change in nine priority sectors: agriculture, water resources, human health, energy, fisheries, tourism, infrastructure, wildlife, and forestry. The report also identified areas for improvement, such as the need to improve reporting on land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF), with specific areas for improvement in data collection and analysis in subsectors. It also summarized the three areas identified by the country for capacity-building support to achieve its vision as a climate-resilient country: individual capacity building, institutional capacity building, and resource mobilization. Furthermore, stocktaking identified a need to improve reporting on sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). Capacity building and training activities in this project will strengthen both individual and institutional capacity and will address the specific transparency needs identified in BTR1.

This project will work closely with Malawi's anticipated CBIT project, which will strengthen institutional and national capacities for reporting through the establishment of a Transparency Unit that will be coordinating all the reporting work. The project will also coordinate with the country's Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) project, which is designed to provide tools for inventory improvement, NDC tracking, and adaptation reporting; and it will use data and information collected under GCF readiness support.

Malawi's National Gender Policy (2025) recognizes the importance of including gender issues in climate change interventions. In its priority area number five (5), the policy talks to "Gender in Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change." In its BTR1, Malawi included a section on gender and climate change, which reported on progress under the Lima Work Program and identified gender differences in coping with climate impacts. This proposed enabling activity will analyze how previous and current climate change management in the country is being executed with respect to gender and social considerations. This will involve looking closely at the climate change landscape including strategic and legislative frameworks that advance issues of gender and social inclusion in implementation of climate actions. Further details are outlined in the gender analysis in Annex D.

1.1.1 (d) Malawi's BTR2 will consist of:

- National inventory report of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks through the year 2024 (T-2) for the Energy, IPPU, Agriculture, LULUCF, and Waste sectors using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement.
- Description of the country's NDC and information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the NDC and strengthen reporting on underlying actions, progress, and results achieved or envisaged for the updated NDC and associated indicators.
- Description of the impacts of climate change, adaptation and additional information to be included in the BTR, corresponding to an Adaptation Communication as specified in Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and Decision 9/CMA.1 and including the agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, energy, health, fisheries, water, and education sectors, along with information on differences in vulnerability between women and men.
- Description of financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received.
- Other relevant information, focusing on climate and gender and including a description of improvements in reporting and flexibility utilized.

1.1.2 (d) Malawi's BTR3/NC5 will update and expand on the information provided in the BTR2. In addition, the NIR will be extended through the year 2026 (T-2) for all sectors covered by BTR2, including updated inventory using 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and its 2019 refinement. The BTR3/NC5 report will also include a description of the loss and damage mechanism, flexibility and improvements Other relevant information, focusing on climate and gender, a description of improvements in reporting and flexibility utilized, and NC supplementary chapters.

D. Institutional Framework

Describe the institutional arrangements for implementation of the enabling activity.

The project will be implemented by UNEP and executed by two government entities, one Civil Society Organization (CSO), and the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia as appointed by the respective country governments.

1. Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (RECC), Azerbaijan (CSO)
2. UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA), Iraq (GEF Implementing Agency). Iraq requested UNEP ROWA to support project execution due to limited financial, institutional, and technical capacity for direct implementation. This aligns with Iraq's designation in the World Bank's 2025 fragile and conflict-affected situations list, qualifying it as an exceptional case under GEF provisions for Agency execution. UNEP's request for dual execution was approved by GEF via email on 1 December 2025.
3. Multilateral Environment Agreement Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia (Government)
4. Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi (Government)

The four participating countries used these entities to prepare and submit their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR1) to the UNFCCC, as shown in Table C.1, with UNEP as the Implementing Agency. UNEP has previous experience working with the above EAs during the preparation of previous NCs and BURs and will therefore continue to play a pivotal role in assisting these teams to strengthen their capacities in reporting.

UNEP also brings value added to this project through its role as a science-based implementing agency. UNEP's role as the GEF Implementing Agency for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Global Support Program, known as CBIT-GSP, a programme that supports countries by building capacity, offering technical assistance, and fostering peer learning to enhance national climate transparency systems and prepare country reports to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Country participation in CBIT-GSP sub-regional networks provides continuity across individual reports and offers in-country experts various opportunities to increase capacities related to different areas of reporting, ranging from inventories and NDC tracking to adaptation and project management for reporting. Support for country reporting is done in close coordination with CBIT-GSP with ongoing communication.

Detailed execution arrangements for each country are provided in the section below on proposed execution arrangements and stakeholders. UNEP will undertake due diligence of all implementing partners as outlined in current UNEP partnership policy.

UNEP in its role of implementing agency (IA) will:

- Lead in internalization, UNEP Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signing and first disbursement/sub-allotment to the EA
- Technically assessing quality of project outputs, products and deliverables
- Review reporting, checking for consistency between execution activities and expenditures, ensuring that it respects GEF incrementality rules
- Provide clearance of cash requests, and authorize disbursements once reporting is found to be complete and accurate,
- Approve budget revision, certify fund availability and transfer funds
- Create consensus to resolve inter-institutional and multi-country issues
- Manage relations with the GEF
- Oversee the Umbrella programme and provide feedback on demand to GEF Operational Focal Points
- Follow up the Executing Agency on progress, equipment, financial and audit reports
- Provide no-objection to main terms of references (ToRs) and subcontracts of the project, including selection of project manager or equivalent
- Attend inception workshops and field visits where relevant

- Assess project risks, and monitor and enforce a risk management plan
- Ensure that GEF quality standards are applied consistently to all projects.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER EXISTING CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

All four participating countries have identified in their project implementation plans (PIP), other existing climate change projects that will be coordinated with the activities under this project. Country teams will also be guided to strengthen linkages with other relevant initiatives, particularly CBIT-GSP. The CBIT-GSP global project offers peer-to-peer exchanges that take place in the form of workshops & webinars, bilateral exchanges between countries with similar contexts and in similar sub-regions and language groups. Additional coordination opportunities will be sought with other programmes and initiatives on mitigation, adaptation, and readiness projects funded through other projects supported by the GEF; the GCF; the Adaptation Fund; the NDC Promise initiative; ICAT; and the Low Emissions Development Strategy Global Partnership (LEDS GP). Coordination will be aligned and reported under the United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs), who support national UNFCCC reporting by coordinating overall UN system engagement, facilitating stakeholder collaboration, and aligning climate reporting with broader development goals.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing, integral part of the project's cyclical reporting under the UNFCCC. It begins with consultations on lessons learned, areas for improvement and identification of new stakeholders to inform the design of each new reporting cycle. Key actors, including government ministries, technical institutions, private sector representatives and civil society among others, were engaged in scoping meetings and workshops to define priorities, provide sectoral data, and align the project with national climate strategies and NDC commitments. Their inputs shaped methodologies, capacity-building components, and institutional arrangements, ensuring strong national ownership.

During implementation, individual country budgets have funds dedicated to support national travel costs for stakeholders' participation in meetings and workshops related to the BTR and BTR/NC reports. This allocation will ensure inclusive representation from national ministries, subnational authorities, civil society organizations, academia, and technical experts who contribute to the preparation, review, and dissemination of the final BTR and BTR/NC reports. Covered expenses will also enable stakeholders to attend the launch, review, and validation workshops; and technical coordination sessions, capacity-building workshops, and consultative meetings required for compiling greenhouse gas inventories, tracking progress on NDCs, and reporting on adaptation and support received. By supporting travel, the project facilitates broad and equitable participation and strengthens institutional collaboration. For Iraq, all workshops and stakeholder meetings will be held in Erbil rather than Baghdad for safety and security reasons; and to ensure cost effectiveness, some workshops and meetings will be held virtually.

Prior to project closure, further stakeholder feedback is gathered to refine the follow-on proposal's scope and ensure its responsiveness to stakeholder needs. This continuous engagement fosters ownership and enhances the long-term uptake of project outcomes. A stakeholder overview is provided in the sub-section below on proposed executing arrangements and stakeholders.

GENDER

This project has been designed to conform to 2018 guidance from the GEF on Gender Equality^[1] and UNEP’s Policy and Strategy for Gender Equality and the Environment, and the UNEP gender marker assigned to the project is GEN2. A gender analysis has been conducted and is provided in Annex D. Countries have communicated their planned activities related to gender mainstreaming and women’s meaningful participation in project activities through activity mapping. National teams will be encouraged to refer to the Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit, which was developed by UNDP through the GEF-funded Global Support Programme (GSP), and to the CBIT-GSP Gender Responsive BTR Toolkit when it becomes available in 2026.

The project will ensure gender mainstreaming by organizing training sessions, supporting research and analysis that will increase knowledge and understanding of the role of gender in climate change; collect sex-disaggregated data where possible; hire experts on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment; and monitor women’s representation in project activities and management structures. Gender experts will participate in technical working groups. All participating countries will undertake data collection and analysis on gender and climate change under the BTR and BTR/NC chapters on Other Relevant Information. Furthermore, the countries will consider differences in vulnerability to climate change between women and men under the BTR and BTR/NC chapters on adaptation. Detailed information on country approaches and activities is provided in the gender analysis in Annex D, and gender will be monitored in the annual GEF survey of the participating countries.

SAFEGUARDS

The project has been screened for potential risks. A Safeguards Risk Identification Form (SRIF) has been completed according to UNEP’s safeguards procedures, and it is included as Annex C of this document. The project has been judged as low risk since activities under the proposed project are not only expected to generate no or limited adverse environmental effects but are considered to support preventive measures. The project will, generally, have positive environmental and social impacts, as it provides support to Developing Country parties under the Paris Agreement, including countries with LDC and/or SIDS status under the UNFCCC, to meet their reporting obligations, in addition to generating a wealth of climate change related data to guide in designing priority adaptation and mitigation policies and actions to inform development strategies and sector programs.

PROPOSED Executing Arrangements & STAKEHOLDERS

The participating countries will build on the existing foundation for institutional arrangements and stakeholder engagement provided by national climate change institutions and previous enabling activities. Stakeholders include Government Ministries, Research Institutions, Academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the private sector, women’s organizations, and Indigenous peoples. In the project, the private sector will primarily be involved as a sectoral data provider in national GHG inventories, as participants in technical working groups, and as a target group for awareness-raising measures. Civil society organizations, including women’s CSOs, will be among the stakeholders invited to provide information and feedback on various sectoral outputs of the reports produced in this project. Table C.2 outlines the key stakeholders identified during the project preparation phase and their respective roles in the project across each participating country/party. Where relevant, additional stakeholders will be integrated into working groups and activity engaged in the completion and validation of reports.

Azerbaijan

Executing Arrangements:

As per the request of the country, UNEP has the role of the GEF Implementing Agency. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) has delegated authority of the Executing Agency to the Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus (RECC), a CSO, for this project. The RECC has served as the executing agency for several GEF-financed projects in Azerbaijan on climate change mitigation, biodiversity and land degradation, among other focal areas in collaboration with UNEP. Currently, RECC is serving as the executing agency for six GEF-funded projects, including the current climate change enabling activity project.

The RECC in its capacity as an execution agency is responsible for whole process of project execution, including project management, procurement, reporting, personnel administration, etc. while the MENR shall provide project oversight to ensure that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner, considering full engagement and ownership during and beyond project execution duration. Roles and responsibilities under the project that are delegated to the RECC consist of the following: (a) Plan and conduct all coordination and consultation activities with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders; (b) Identify all institutions and teams that will be involved in the preparation of the BTR2/NC5 & BTR3, including establishing any formal working arrangements; (c) Allocate responsibilities for all components of the BTR2/NC5 & BTR3, ensuring that there is a clear lead for each section, and establish a formal approval process; (d) Develop and monitor a time frame and schedule for the preparation of the BTR2/NC5 & BTR3, including specific milestones and dates for deliverables; (e) Identifying constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs, including a description of the support needed and received; (f) Keeping any management committees or working groups informed of progress and emerging issues; (g) Developing and overseeing the implementation of a quality assurance/quality control strategy for the entire spectrum of the reports; (h) Developing and maintaining an archiving system to ensure institutional memory.

Stakeholder coordination under the project will be done through the State Commission on Climate Change (SCCC), as well as through working groups and a National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) representing all relevant sectors. The NPAC will continue its role from the BUR3/BTR1 project, representing all relevant sectors.

The project institutional arrangements described above are depicted in Figure 2.1A.

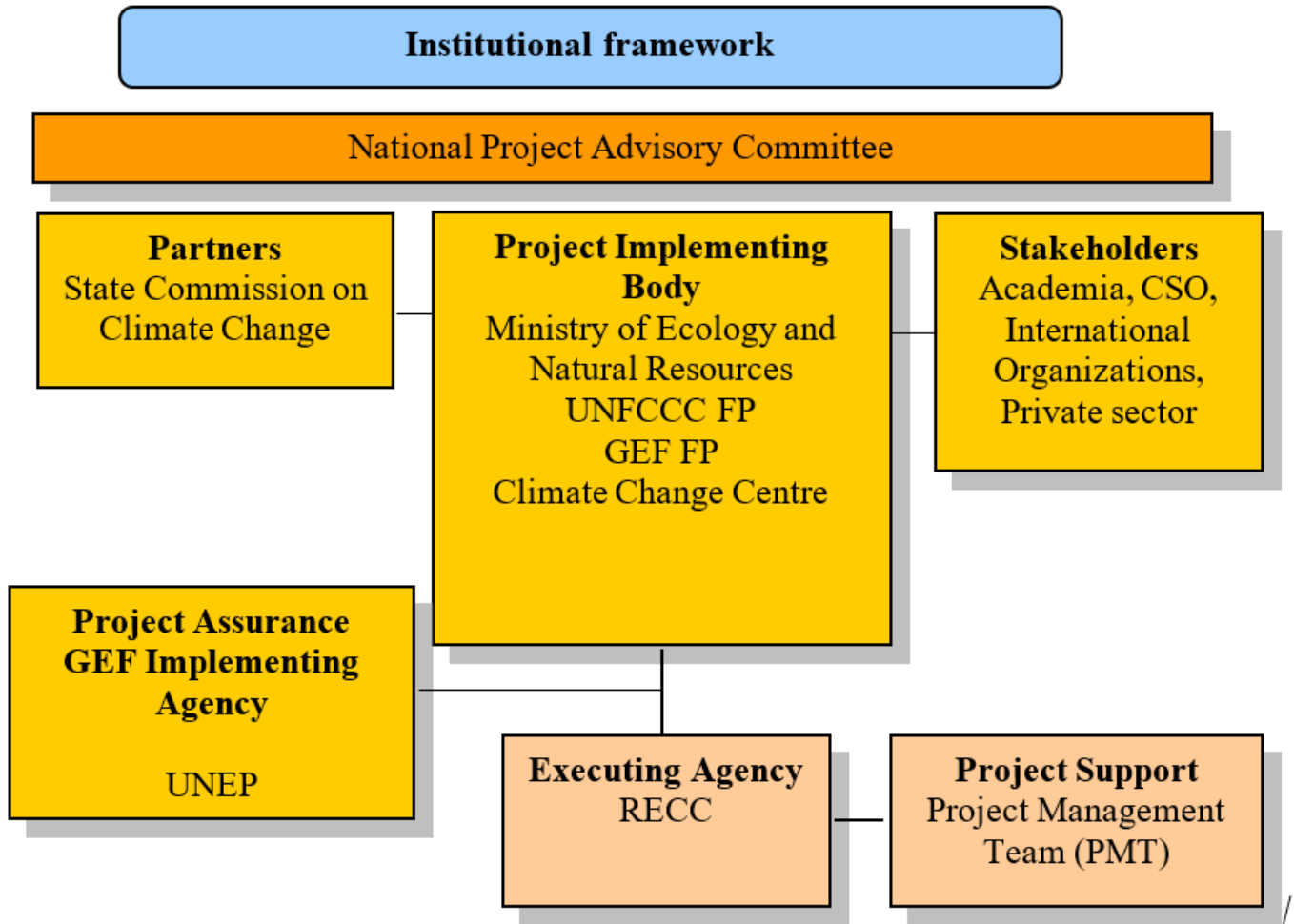


Figure 2.1A: Overall Institutional Arrangements for Azerbaijan

The Project Management Team will consist of the Project Technical Coordinator (PTC) and Administrative Assistant (AA), as well as Team Leaders of working groups. The NPC will be responsible for the day-to-day management, co-ordination and supervision of the implementation of the project. The AA will provide assistance to the PTC to facilitate smooth implementation of the project, including administrative and financial issues. Team Leaders will lead the process under each working group, while working closely with each other, as well as other individual experts working on separate chapters. These project management arrangements are depicted in Figure 2.1B.

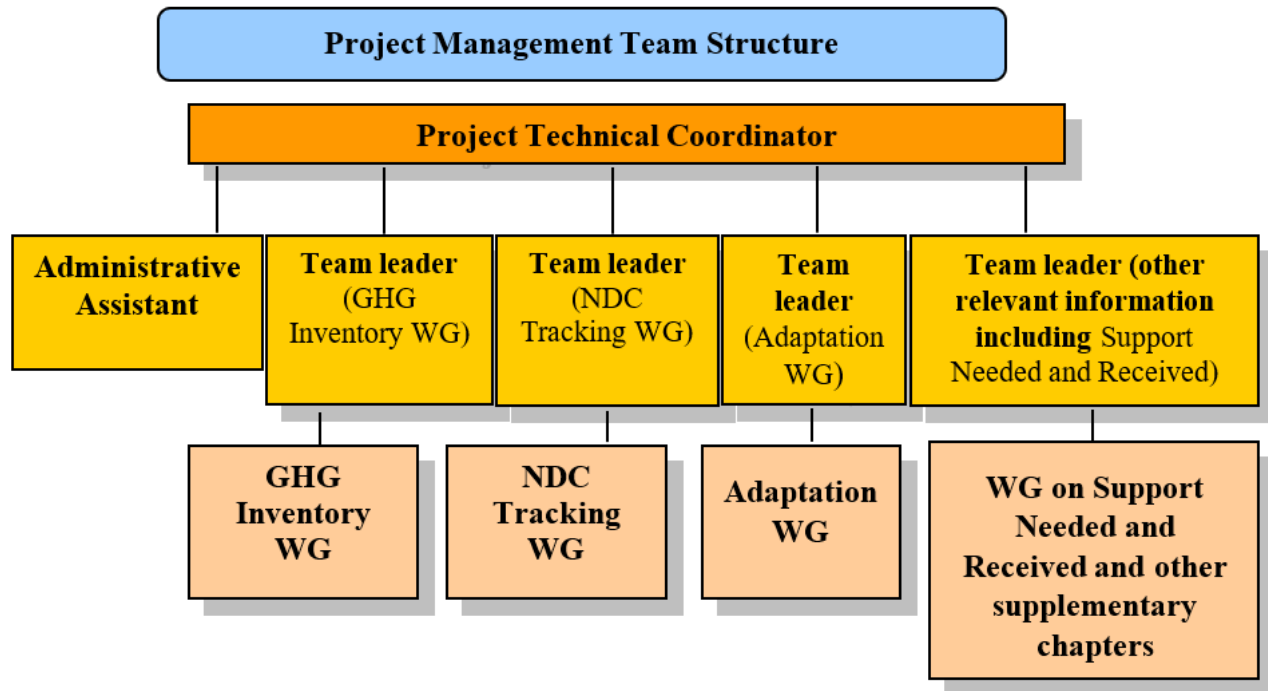


Figure 2.1: Overall Institutional Arrangements for Azerbaijan

Iraq

Executing Arrangements

The Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the focal point for climate change in Iraq. Support to MoE is provided by line ministries, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Construction and Municipalities, Ministry of Oil and counterparts in the Kurdistan Region.

The MoE has worked to establish the national entities and units necessary to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the UNFCCC. It established the National Unit for Climate Change, a national body responsible for implementing the requirements of the UNFCCC. This unit later evolved into the Iraqi National Centre for Climate Change (NCCC). In 2011, the Permanent National Committee for Climate Change (PNCCC) was established. The committee collaborates with the Iraqi National Centre for Climate Change to draft and execute strategic plans, coordinate with stakeholders, raise national awareness and follow up with the UNFCCC.

The executing entity for this project will be UNEP ROWA, which will execute the project on behalf of the Ministry of Environment. As the executing entity, UNEP ROWA will ensure proper flow of activities and management of the project. This includes providing finance, procurement, and other administrative services

to the project management in order to reach project objectives and implement project work plans. UNEP will maintain a strict segregation of duties at all times between its role as a GEF Implementing Agency and UNEP ROWA’s role as an executing agency. Implementation will comply with all applicable UN regulations, rules, and procedures, with oversight by the Corporate Services Division.

The project implementation unit consists of a team of individuals who perform a set of specific duties in accordance with UNEP ROWA Policies and Procedures related to project management support. These duties include, but are not limited to, project financial and budget management, organization of project events, maintenance of project records, inventory, other administrative support required by the project management. Figure 2.2 provides an overview of the project implementation arrangements.

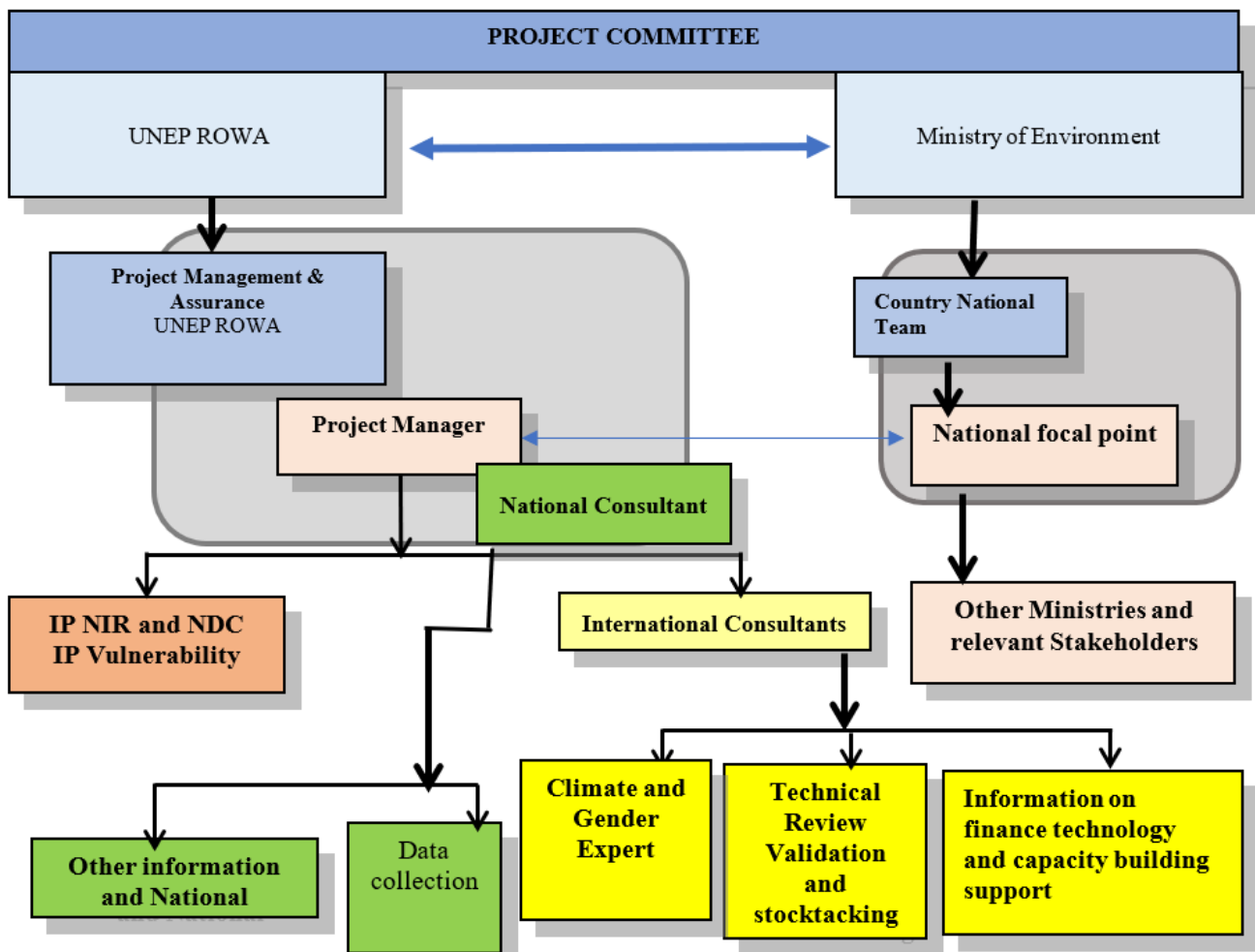


Figure 2.2: Project Implementation Structure for Iraq

The project will be supported by a Project Manager and National consultant who will work together with the Country National Team. The Country National Team will comprise various representatives of the different ministries and directories directly involved in the preparation of the reports and in data compilation. The National consultant will be based at the MOE to ensure smooth implementation of project activities and will report to Project Manager. The Project Manager will evaluate project outputs to ensure project activities are

being carried out in a timely manner. Project Manager will also provide oversight responsibility to ensure a smooth transition from the current enabling activity to subsequent reporting. International Consultants will report directly to the Project Manager. They will provide technical assistance for project activities and guidance training on scientific or methodological aspects of project work.

Liberia

Executing Arrangements:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the institution which is responsible for implementation of international environment treaties to which Liberia is a Party to (including UNFCCC). Within the EPA, there exists a Multilateral Environmental Agreement Department (MEA). This department under the EPA is totally responsible for the activities related to preparation of National Communications; Biennial Transparency Reports; and National Inventory Reports of the Republic of Liberia under the UNFCCC. The department is also responsible for monitoring climate change-related activities/projects and their execution on behalf of the EPA. The department on behalf of the EPA will execute the project.

Based on available scientific and technical expertise in the country, a project management unit (PMU) and technical expert groups (TEGs) will be reconstituted in consultation with other government ministries and agencies as well as civic society organizations. The PMU will be responsible for operational planning and day-to-day implementation of all project activities in the PIP, as well as for monitoring and reporting on project outputs and deliverables. The PMU will prepare and support the planning of meetings and manage the project budget. The PMU will be based at the EPA and will be led by a full-time Project Technical Coordinator.

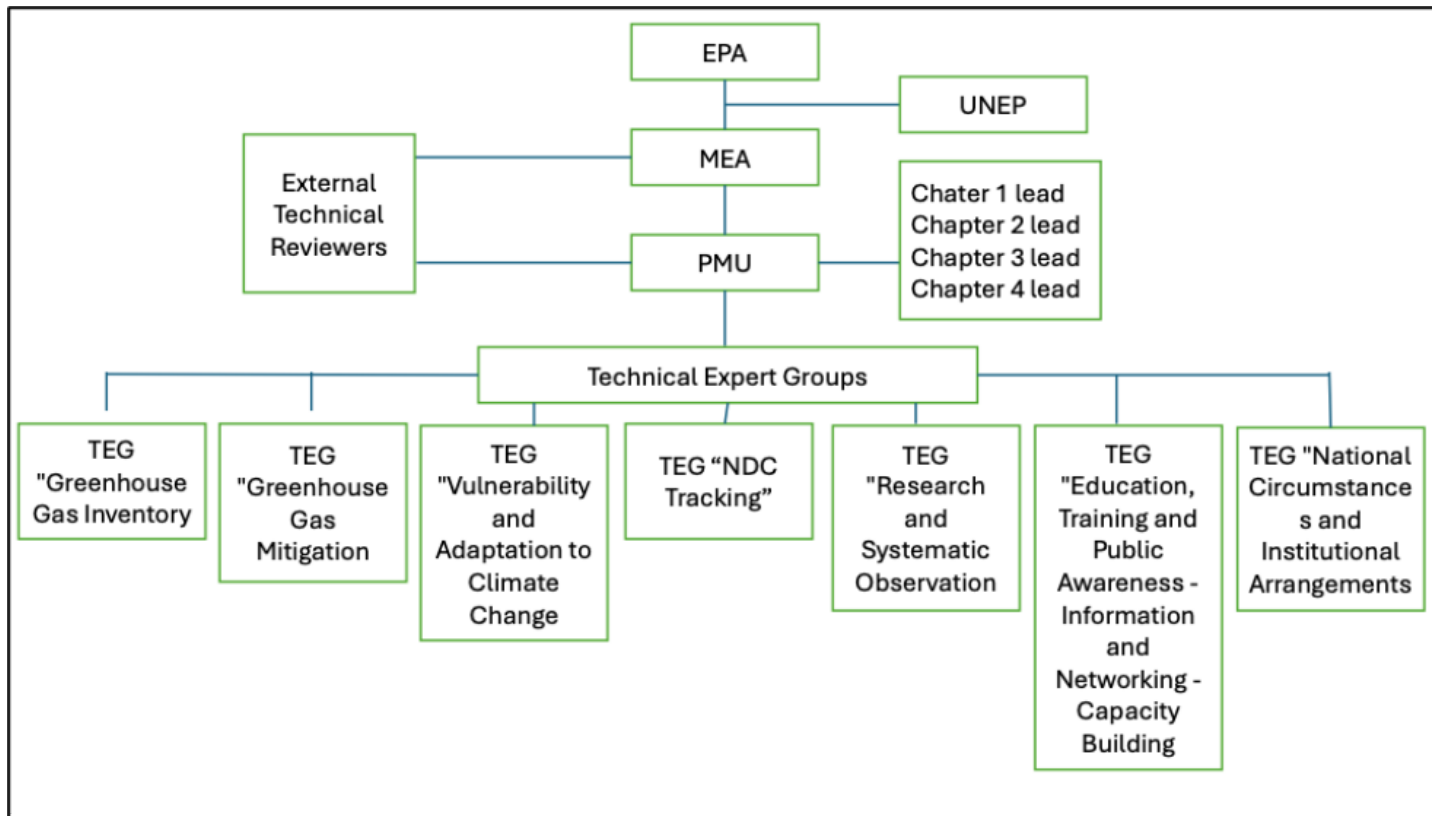


Figure 2.3: Project organization and management structure for Liberia

Malawi

Executing Arrangements

The national executing agency is the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change through the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), which will supervise overall project implementation. EAD was responsible for the preparation of the BTR1 of Malawi. EAD has the overall mandate for preparing and coordinating NCs, BURs and BTRs and accounting for all relating financial resources to UNEP. The EAD will ensure overall monitoring of the project to meet the project objectives, achieving results (outputs) and impact; and accounting for all financial resources to UNEP.

The National Technical Committee on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (NTCCC) will be providing technical guidance. The National Climate Change Management Policy provides for the establishment of Expert Working Groups, which provide technical direction for specific thematic areas and report to the Technical Committee. Currently, the country has three Expert Working Groups (EWGs), which are on Adaptation, Mitigation and Finance. The EWGs comprise a pool of experts drawn from the key relevant sectors within government ministries and departments, academic institutions, researchers, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations.

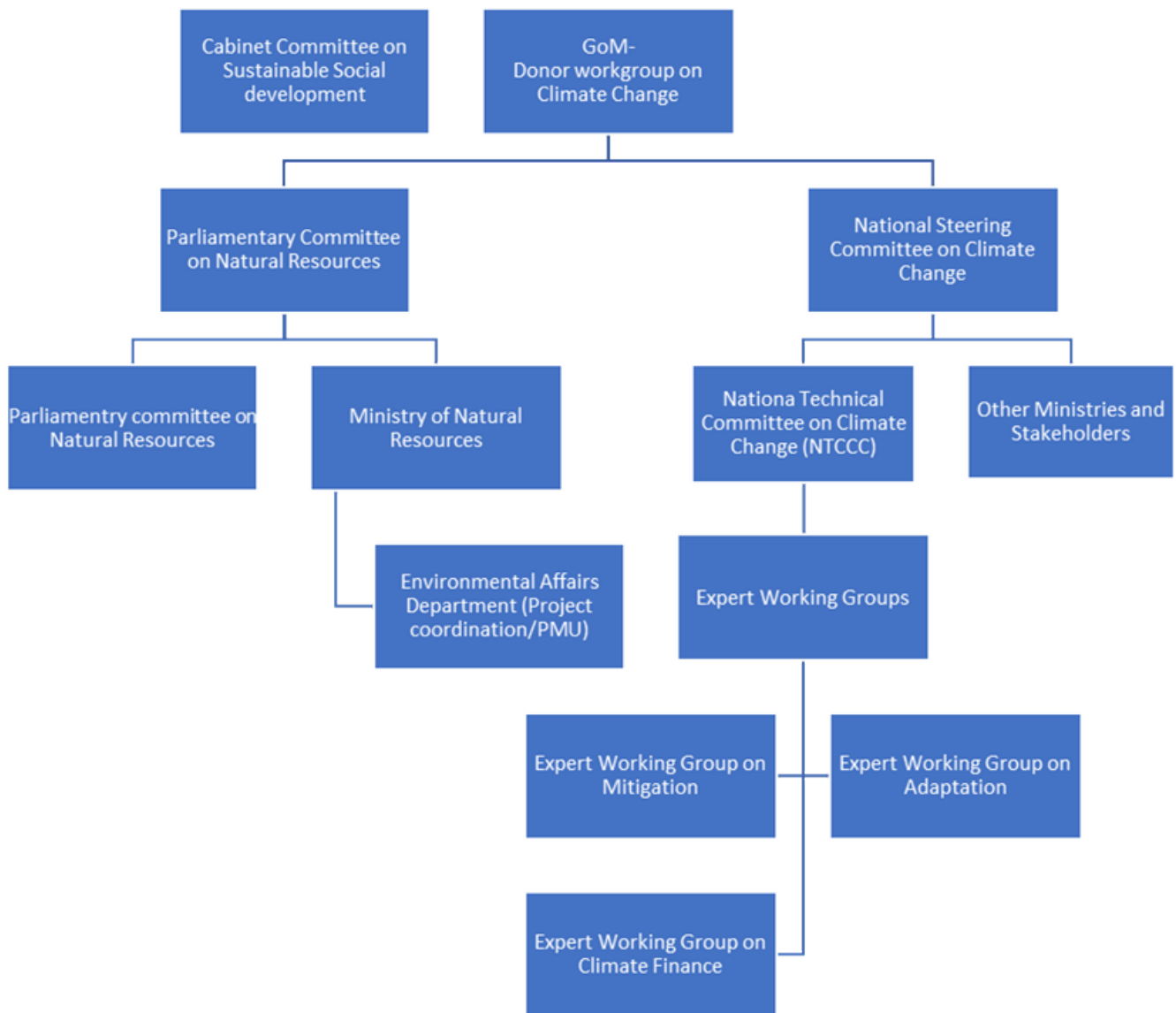


Figure 2.4: Project management structure for Malawi

STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW

Section D of this proposal describes the project’s approach to stakeholder engagement. Table C.2 below lists key stakeholders that were identified during project preparation and describes their role in the project across each participating country/party.

Table C.2: Stakeholder Overview

Stakeholders	Potential Role in the Project
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Azerbaijan	
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To be a member of the National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) and participate in its meetings</p> <p>Location of UNFCCC gender focal point</p>
Ministry of Economy	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To be a member of NPAC and participate in its meetings</p>
Ministry of Energy	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To be a member of NPAC and participate in its meetings</p>
Ministry of Digital Development and Transport	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To be a member of the NPAC and participate in its meetings</p>
Ministry of Agriculture	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To be a member of the NPAC and participate in its meetings</p>
State Statistics Committee	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p>
State Committee on Family, Women and Children Affairs	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p> <p>To ensure gender equality and women's empowerment (institutional home of UNFCCC Gender Focal Point)</p>
Azerenergy Joint Stock Company (JSC)	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p>
Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p>
State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p>
Ministry of Science and Education	<p>To provide requisite data for report preparation</p> <p>To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation</p>

Tamiz Shahr Open Joint Stock Company (OJSC)	To provide requisite data for report preparation To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences	To provide requisite data and expertise for report preparation, particularly on the NC5 supplemental section on climate change research To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation
International organizations	To provide requisite data for report preparation To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation
CSOs	To provide requisite data for report preparation To participate in project workshops, including inception and validation
Iraq	
Ministry of Environment	Lead and Focal point
Ministry of Oil	Data collection and validation for NIR and NDC
Ministry of Electricity	Data collection and validation for NIR and NDC
Ministry of Transport	Data collection and validation for NIR and NDC
Ministry of Industry and Minerals	Data collection and validation for NIR and NDC
Ministry of Agriculture	Data collection, support and validation for Adaptation chapter
Kurdistan Region Authority	Data collection, support and validation for Adaptation chapter
Ministry of Agriculture	Data collection, support and validation for Adaptation chapter
Ministry of Water resources	Data collection, support and validation for Adaptation chapter
Ministry of Health	Data collection, support and validation for Adaptation chapter
Ministry of Youth and Sports	Youth engagement and outreach on climate issues
Women Empowerment Directive	Stakeholder engagement and two-way exchange of information on gender.
University of Baghdad	Stakeholder engagement.
Liberia	
Environmental Protection Agency	Executing Agency for project. Provide official national statistics and data (population, socio-economic, emissions proxies) needed for the NC/BTR baseline and time-series. Location of UNFCCC Gender Focal Point.
Liberia Statistics and Geo-information Services (LISGIS)	LISGIS will support in GHG data collection and repository, as it is the institution's mandate to store and validate national data.
Ministry of Agriculture	The MoA support in the collection and validation of GHG data for the agriculture data.
Monrovia City Cooperation	The Monrovia city corporation will lead of the waste sector
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDPP)	Integrate climate finance tracking into transparency system; ensure budget lines and expenditure data feed into BTR/NC tables.
Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)	Provide energy sector data (fuel use, renewable uptake, GHGs, clean cooking metrics) for the BTR/NC mitigation chapter.
Liberia National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)	Provide adaptation-risk and resilience data (floods, droughts, early-warning systems) relevant for the adaptation section of the NC and BTR.
Fauna & Flora International (FFI) (NGO)	Non-government partner supporting forest/land-use projects; can supply project-level data for emissions/removals and help validate land-use tables in NC/BTR.

Society for the Conservation of Nature (NGO)	Non-government partner supporting forest/land-use projects; can supply project-level data for emissions/removals and help validate land-use tables in NC/BTR.
Conservation International (NGO)	Non-government partner supporting forest/land-use projects; can supply project-level data for emissions/removals and help validate land-use tables in NC/BTR.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Liberia country office	Provide technical support, capacity-building, link to the previous BTR enabling activity; help coordinate stakeholder engagement and quality assurance.
University of Liberia (UL) and other academic institutions	Provide research and methodological support (e.g., GHG inventory, adaptation metrics); validate data and provide peer review for the report.
Ministry of Agriculture	Provides data on agricultural emissions (enteric fermentation, soils, rice cultivation); tracks NDC and adaptation measures in agriculture.
Forestry Development Authority	Supplies data on land use, forest cover, and carbon stock changes; coordinates REDD+ and FOLU reporting.
Ministry of Transport	Provides data on fuel use, vehicle stock, and sectoral mitigation actions; supports projections and MRV for transport emissions.
National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)	Supports adaptation tracking and data collection in fisheries sector; contributes to vulnerability assessments.
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Provides health sector vulnerability data; contributes to tracking adaptation measures and loss & damage related to climate-health impacts.
National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)	Contributes data on disaster risks, extreme events, and climate-induced damage; supports loss and damage reporting.
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	Ensures gender and inclusion considerations are mainstreamed; monitors gender indicators and supports stakeholder engagement.
Climate Change Steering Committee (NCCSC)	Provides high-level guidance, cross-sectoral oversight, and political endorsement of the BT
NDC Focal Points in Ministries	Track and report on sectoral NDC targets and indicators; liaise with EPA and TWGs for data and policy updates.
National Climate Change Secretariat (NCCS)	Supports coordination, documentation, and M&E for adaptation and mitigation progress; facilitates reporting logistics.
Malawi	
Government (MDAs & District Councils)	Coordination and data provision, monitoring and evaluation
Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) - Focal point for the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, Designated National Authority (DNA) for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) - Focal point for the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, Designated National Authority (DNA) for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Operational Focal Point for the Global Environmental Facility (GEF); Focal Point for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement and primary Focal Point for the Adaptation Fund
Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change - responsible for coordinating and managing climate change, environment and natural resources issues.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change - responsible for coordinating and managing climate change, environment and natural resources issues.
Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development - responsible for coordinating the development and operationalizing the Malawi 2063 including MIP1 which is an entry point for	Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development - responsible for coordinating the development and operationalizing the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) including MIP1 which is an entry point for climate change mainstreaming into development interventions.

climate change mainstreaming into development interventions.	
Ministry of Finance-mobilization and provision of climate finance	Ministry of Finance-mobilization and provision of climate finance
Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services - Effective early warning systems to help in proper planning of mitigation and adaptation measures.	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services - Effective early warning systems to help in proper planning of mitigation and adaptation measures.
Department of Forestry – sustainable forest management.	Department of Forestry – promotion of sustainable management and utilisation forest resources.
Ministry of Energy - Provide policy direction and regulation in energy sector.	Ministry of Energy - Provide policy direction and regulation in energy sector.
Department of Water Resources - To monitor water resources to ensure proper water resources management.	Department of Water Resources - To monitor water resources to ensure proper water resources management.
Ministry of Information and Civic Education - government mouthpiece, publicizing government activities on climate change in the public media.	Ministry of Information and Civic Education - government mouthpiece, publicizing government activities on climate change in the public media.
Ministry of Agriculture – implementation of both adaptation and mitigation measures.	Ministry of Agriculture – implementation of both adaptation and mitigation measures in the Agriculture sector by ensuring food security.
Ministry of Gender – mainstreaming of gender in all climate change policy frameworks and programmes	Ministry of Gender – mainstreaming gender in all climate change policy frameworks and programmes. Institutional home of UNFCCC gender focal point.
Ministry of Education – education, training and public awareness	Ministry of Education – education, training and public awareness
Department of Disaster Management Affairs - Provision of assistance to people affected by floods and heavy rains; and coordination of humanitarian programmes.	Department of Disaster Management Affairs - Provision of assistance to people affected by floods and heavy rains; and coordination of humanitarian programmes.
Ministry of Transport and Public Works - Regulation of vehicle emissions which contribute to global warming.	Ministry of Transport and Public Works - Regulation of vehicle emissions which contribute to global warming.
National Commission for Science and Technology - Developing low emissions technologies like projects on ethanol vehicles which is underway, Malawi’s national designated entity for technology development and transfer	National Commission for Science and Technology - Developing low emissions technologies like projects on ethanol vehicles which is underway, Malawi’s national designated entity for technology development and transfer
Malawi Bureau of Standards - Promotion of clean fuels to reduce environmental pollution from fossil fuels.	Malawi Bureau of Standards - Promotion of clean fuels to reduce environmental pollution from fossil fuels.
Malawi Environment Protection Authority-data providers	Malawi Environment Protection Authority-data providers
Private Sector	Data provision and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures
Non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, Faith and Community Based organizations	Data provision and implementation of adaptation and mitigation measure including advocacy and gender mainstreaming

Academia (Training and Research Institutions) Public Universities, teaching and research into climate change.	Conduct research, data collection, analysis, quality check and assurance
Development Partners	Technical and financial support
Decentralized Structures	Data provision and policy implementation
The media	Raising awareness & Information dissemination
The general public	End users

[1] GEF (2018). *GEF Policy on Gender Equality*.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Describe the budgeted M&E plan.

OUTPUT 2.1.1 THE GEF PROJECT IS EFFECTIVELY MONITORED AND EVALUATED

Project monitoring for all participating countries will be conducted through standard M&E procedures for UNEP GEF Enabling Activities. Technical progress reports and the annual report to the GEF and the UNFCCC will be prepared, and final closure activities will be carried out as described in the table below. The table also includes consolidated budget for project inception workshops and mid-term review workshops for the participating countries, and the individual country budget for these workshops is provided in Annex B.

Table E.1: Monitoring and Evaluation Workplan & Budget

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget	Time Frame
Project Inception Workshop (PIW)	National Project Management Unit, Technical Expert Groups and UNEP Task Manager to raise awareness, build stakeholder engagement and detailed work planning	US\$39,000 (for four workshops)	Within 2 months of project start-up
Project Inception Report	Project Manager (PM)/Project Technical Coordinator (PTC) & UNEP Task Manager	Covered by PM salary	Not more than 1 month after the Project Inception Workshop
Technical progress reports expenditure statements	National Project Management Unit, Task Manager, Funds Management Officer	Covered by PM and project assistant salaries	Quarterly expenditure and technical progress reports for any given year, submitted by January 31, April 30, and July 31, October 31 and at the end of the project implementation. The tracking of gender-related deliverables is comprised in the progress reporting template and expenditure reporting template.
Organize a mid-term review workshop for launch of	National Project Management Unit, Technical Expert Groups, Key Stakeholders	US\$16,000 (for four workshops)	At the midpoint of project implementation as planned by individual projects

subsequent report with key stakeholders			
Report to the GEF and COP of UNFCCC	National Project Management Unit, Task Manager, Funds Management Officer (FMO)	Covered by PM salary and IA fee	Annually, part of the reporting routine. The annual project status survey to the GEF will include questions on gender mainstreaming and the country's efforts to integrate marginalized or vulnerable groups into national reporting.
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	UNEP Task Manager	Covered under IA fee	Annually, part of reporting routine
Annual Inventory of Non-expendable equipment	National Project Management Unit, Task Manager, FMO)	Covered by PM and project assistant salaries	Annually, as at 31 December of each year, to be submitted within 2 months
Project Monitoring	UNEP Task Manager	Covered under IA fee	Continuous
Final closure, including an Operational Completion Report (OCR)	National Project Management Unit, Task Manager, FMO, Consultant(s)	Covered under PM and project assistant salaries	Initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities. The Operational Completion Report (OCR) will include gender-specific results/information on gender mainstreaming.
TOTAL		US\$55,000	

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements, and the UNEP Programme Manual and Evaluation Policy, all GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. Notably, GEF Enabling Activities are exempt, by both UNEP and the GEF, from any mid-point performance assessment.

In the case of Enabling Activity projects with total funding below USD 1.5 million, OR which are issuing grants of less than USD 1.5 million each to multiple implementing countries, albeit administered through a single GEF ID, an Operational Completion Report (OCR) meets both the UNEP and the GEF performance assessment requirements. This project will be issuing grants of USD 1,233,000 to each country.

The OCR is a form of self-reporting that is led by the Task Manager of the project, and a quality check by the Evaluation Office is not required. The OCR template is available from the Policy and Programme Division. Upon its finalization, the OCR will be uploaded to the GEF Portal by the Task Manager.

SECTION 3: INFORMATION TABLES

F. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$)	Agency Fee (\$)	Total (\$)
UNEP	GET	Azerbaijan	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	1,233,000.00	117,135.00	1,350,135.00
UNEP	GET	Iraq	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	1,233,000.00	117,135.00	1,350,135.00
UNEP	GET	Liberia	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	1,233,000.00	117,135.00	1,350,135.00
UNEP	GET	Malawi	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	1,233,000.00	117,135.00	1,350,135.00
Total GEF Resources					4,932,000.00	468,540.00	5,400,540.00

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

G. Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Desertification
Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

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

Please attach the *Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s)* with this template.

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Emin Garabaghli	Head of Division of International Cooperation	MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AZERBAIJAN)	3/17/2025
Dr. Hallo Al-Askari	Minister	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT (IRAQ)	10/26/2025
Dr. Emmanuel King Urey Yarkpawolo	Executive Director / CEO	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (LIBERIA)	10/15/2025

Mr. Evans Njewa	Deputy Director	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MALAWI)	6/6/2025
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ANNEX A: RESPONSES TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Describe how the enabling activity has addressed comments from stakeholders, including Council Members, Convention Secretariats, and STAP (if applicable).

ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE

Attach the project budget table.

GEF - Expenditure Category	Description	Component 1		Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (USD)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)
		Output 1	Output 2					
02. Goods								
	Laptops and accessories for use by technical and project management teams	34,410	-	34,410	-	10,380	44,790	RECC, EPA, EAD
02. Goods subtotal		34,410	-	34,410	-	10,380	44,790	
07. Contractual services (company)								
	Consulting firms/companies to support the data collection, analysis, review, validation and preparation of NIR, adaptation & loss and damage and NDC tracking chapters - (<i>Iraq & Liberia</i>)	140,000	118,910	258,910	-	-	258,910	ROWA, EPA
	Contractual services for translation, design, Printing / Publishing of the final consolidated outputs - BTR2 and BTR3/NC reports (<i>Azerbaijan; Iraq; Liberia & Malawi</i>)	45,000	44,000	89,000	-	-	89,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
07. Contractual		185,000	162,910	347,910	-	-	347,910	



services (company) subtotal								
08. Contractual services (individuals)								
	Project Technical Coordinator (PTC) to support compilation of different BTR & BTR/NC components and undertake Project Management functions - <i>(Azerbaijan; Liberia & Malawi)</i>	180,800	165,600	346,400	-	78,000	424,400	RECC, EPA, EAD
	Programme Coordinator to undertake Project Management functions - <i>(Iraq)</i>	-	-	-	-	70,000	70,000	ROWA
	Administrative and Finance Assistant (AFA) - <i>(Azerbaijan; Iraq; Liberia & Malawi)</i>	-	-	-	-	205,700	205,700	EAD, RECC, ROWA, EPA
	Meeting facilitators to support the stakeholder engagement meetings / workshops <i>(Azerbaijan & Liberia)</i>	13,000	11,000	24,000	-	-	24,000	RECC, EPA
	National Consultant for Stocktaking exercise <i>(Azerbaijan; & Liberia)</i>	-	35,000	35,000	-	-	35,000	RECC, EPA
	National Gender Specialist <i>(Azerbaijan; Malawi; & Liberia)</i>	30,000	25,000	55,000	-	-	55,000	RECC, EPA, EAD
	National Consultant for Supplemental NC chapters - <i>(Azerbaijan & Iraq & Liberia)</i>	79,000	63,000	142,000			142,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA
	National Experts to support the data collection and review, compilation and validation of NIR; NDC Tracking; Adaptation and loss & damage & Financial, technology, support needed & received technical work under the BTR & BTR/NC reports - <i>(Azerbaijan; Iraq; Liberia & Malawi)</i>	827,000	777,000	1,604,000	-	-	1,604,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
08. Contractual services		1,129,800	1,076,600	2,206,400	-	353,700	2,560,100	



(individuals) subtotal								
12. Training, Workshops, Meetings								
	Venue and catering - Stakeholder Engagement and Validation Workshops	193,600	168,100	361,700	-	-	361,700	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
	Venue and catering - Training workshops	23,500	87,500	211,000	-	-	211,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
	Venue and catering - Stakeholder Engagement workshops (M&E)	-	-	-	55,000	-	55,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
12. Training, Workshops, Meetings subtotal		317,100	255,600	572,700	55,000	-	627,700	
13. Travel								
	International Travel and DSA for International Consultants to in-country trainings, workshops and meetings; and participation of national experts to regional/international trainings on NIR, NDC tracking and climate change adaptation.	130,610	103,500	234,110	-	-	234,110	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
	Local travel for project management teams to monitor project activities	-	-	-	-	16,600	16,600	RECC, EPA, EAD
	Local travel and DSA for national experts to participate in trainings and stakeholder engagement & validation workshops	236,055	160,055	396,110	-	-	396,110	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
13. Travel subtotal		366,665	263,555	630,220	-	16,600	646,820	
15. Other operating costs								
	Financial Audits	-	-	-	-	56,500	6,500	RECC, EPA, EAD
	Communication and bank charges	-	-	-	-	11,180	11,180	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
15. Other operating costs subtotal		-	-	-	-	67,680	67,680	



09. International Consultants								
	International Consultants to support the review and compilation of NIR, NDC tracking, Financial, Technology & support, Climate Change Impacts & Adaptation and Loss & Damage chapter and the final BTR2 & BTR3/NC reports (<i>Azerbaijan; Iraq; Liberia & Malawi</i>)	326,000	271,000	597,000	-	-	597,000	RECC, ROWA, EPA, EAD
	International Consultant - Gender specialist (<i>Iraq</i>)	10,000	10,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	ROWA
	International Consultant - Stocktaking exercise (<i>Iraq</i>)	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	ROWA
09. International Consultants subtotal		336,000	301,000	637,000	-	-	637,000	
Grand Total		2,368,975	2,059,665	4,428,640	55,000	448,360	4,932,000	

Key

RECC - Regional Environmental Center for the Caucasus, Azerbaijan

ROWA - UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, Iraq

EPA - Multilateral Environment Agreement Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia

EAD - Environmental Affairs Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Malawi

ANNEX C: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Attached any screening documents or other ESS related documents (if applicable). ESS screening is not required for EAs but should be included if its available.

Title

Annex C_SRIF