



# Project Title: Lebanon's First Biennial Transparency Reports, Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Reports, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11305

**Countries**

Lebanon

**Project Name**

Project Title: Lebanon's First Biennial Transparency Reports, Fifth National Communication and Second Biennial Transparency Reports, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

**Agencies**

UNDP

**Date received by PM**

4/27/2023

**Review completed by PM**

5/18/2023

**Program Manager**

Patricia Marcos Huidobro

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Section I - Enabling Activity Summary**

#### **Funding elements.**

**Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?**

#### **Secretariat's Comments**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** This project is aligned with the GEF-8 climate change focal are strategy.

#### **Agency's Comments**

#### **Cost Ranges.**

**If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?**

#### **Secretariat's Comments**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Cleared.** The project has no deviations in the cost range. The costing is in line with Information Note GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

Agency's Comments

**Enabling activity summary.**

**Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?**

Secretariat's Comments

**6/7/2023 PM:**

**Cleared.**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**No.** Please address the following comments:

- **Adaptation Communication.** In line with Decision 9/CMA.1, Parties may submit an adaptation communication as a component of, or in conjunction with, a BTR.

Section 2-C paragraph 5 of the proposal states the following: *"Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement and Law 115/2019). Therefore, the adaptation priorities in the updated NDC constitute part of Lebanon's Adaptation Communication in accordance with paragraph 10 of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and Law 115/2019. Adaptation will be reported in both section 3 and 4 of BTR1 and BTR2, which will be considered as Lebanon's adaptation communication".* As per this paragraph, we understand Lebanon's Adaptation Communication would be submitted as part of their NDC.

However, description under Component 3 states: *"Adaptation will be reported in both section 3 and 4 of BTR1 and BTR2, which will be considered as Lebanon's adaptation communication".* This seems to suggest that the Adaptation Communication would be submitted as part of the country's BTR, which contradicts the previous paragraph.

Kindly clarify how Lebanon plans to submit its Adaptation Communications, and update the proposal accordingly.

- **Abbreviations.** Regarding abbreviation words, to avoid confusion, please explain them when they appeared for the first time, i.e., MRVCE, AD, RICCAR, etc.

- **NC4/BUR3 Project.** The Proposal states that "*The 4NC/BUR3 project, currently under implementation...*". Please update this sentence to reflect the fact that NC4/BUR3 reports have already been submitted to the UNFCCC and the closing date of the GEF project is expected/confirmed by end of May, 2023 (?).

- **CBIT.** The proposal has rightly make the link with the on-going CBIT project GEF ID9925. However, kindly elaborate further on the linkages between the two projects, and how this proposal would be built on the main outcomes of the CBIT project, particularly with regards to the strengthening of the MRV system and the capacity raised among government officials/institutions (i.e. outcome 1.2. of the CBIT project ID9925).

- **Stakeholder's involvement.** Private sector actors haven't been identified in the list of key stakeholders. However, as per the latest BUR, i.e. BUR4: "*Consultations were also organized with Non-State Actors academic experts, youth, the private sector and civil society organizations*". Please clarify and elaborate further on the engagement expected with private sector actors under this proposal. Private sector engagement under BTRs shall be built on the engagement under the BUR and, if possible, scale up that previous engagement.

## Agency's Comments

**UNDP response as of 7 June 2023**

### **Adaptation communication**

As mentioned in Section 2-C paragraph 5 of the ER request, Lebanon's first adaptation communication has been integrated in the updated NDC of 2021, which clearly states "Therefore, the below priorities constitute part of Lebanon's Adaptation Communication in accordance with paragraph 10 of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and Law 115/2019." (p. 8. [Lebanon's NDC](#)).

However, as described under component 3 of this proposal, Lebanon's subsequent adaptation communications will be included in BTR1 and BTR2 and not in the NDC. BTRs will be the new channels through which Lebanon will be reporting its adaptation communication.

Clarifications included in Section 2-C paragraph 5 and section D/component 3 of the EA request.

### **Abbreviations**

Abbreviations have been further explained throughout the proposal.

### **NC4/BUR3**

The GEF funded project 4NC/BUR3 was operationally closed in May 2023. The 4NC was submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2022

Information updated in Section 2-C / Table 1 of the EA request.

### **CBIT**

The BTR1 5NC/BTR2 project will work in tandem with CBIT project which started in November 2022 and aims at establishing 1) a transparency baseline and strategy and 2) an MRV Coordinating Entity and Network of Partners in addition to 3) designing and operationalizing an MRV platform for climate reporting. The planned activities under this project will work in complementarity with CBIT as its objective is to enable the Government to enhance available emissions data, performing targeted research, and strengthening technical capacity and institutions to address both mitigation and adaptation.

More specifically, the results of the following activities of the CBIT will be used to improve the preparations of the BTRs and 5 NC:

#### Outcome 1.1:

- The analysis of the quality of information of GHG inventory and its recommendations will be used to improve the quality and completeness of the GHG inventory reported under BTR1 and 5NC/BTR2. In addition, the assessment of climate finance tracking and the establishment of a donor coordination mechanism will be used to improve the reporting of support needed and received.
- The established national MRV Coordinating Entity (MRVCE) and its network of partners will be used as the main entity through which the flow of climate information related to GHG inventory, tracking progress and identification of gaps and needs can be institutionalized and improved over time.

#### Outcome 1.2:

- The series of trainings related to the 2006 IPCC guidelines, developing indicators, tracking NDC progress and quantifying emission reduction and resilience potential of projects, all planned under CBIT, will be organized in complementarity with the BTR1, 5NC/BTR2 activities, thus avoiding any duplication between the 2 projects.
- The trainings will further expand and improve the knowledge of the climate change community of practice in Lebanon, which will improve the quality of BTRs and NC reporting. The stakeholders and experts that will benefit from the CBIT trainings will be further engaged as data collectors and validators in the BTR1, 5NC/BTR2 preparation.

#### Outcome 2.1:

- The country specific emission factors which will be developed under CBIT will allow the move to higher tiers in the Energy and FOLU categories during the preparation of the GHG inventory. These improvements will be reported under BTR1 in 2024.
- The QA/QC procedures and uncertainty assessment planned to be developed under CBIT will be used to guide the inventory process that will be prepared for BTR1, 5NC/BTR2.
- The progress indicators and web-based platform developed under CBIT will be used for the tracking of progress of Lebanon's NDC, to be reported under BTR1 and BTR2.

More details about linkages with the CBIT project have been included in Section 2-C / Table 1 of the EA request and narrative description of activities.

#### **Stakeholder's involvement**

Under this project, consultations will be organized with academic experts, youth groups, the private sector and civil society organizations to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data reported and analyzed and the gaps and needs identified. This approach will build on the previous engagement process initiated under the BUR3/4NC and CBIT projects and will ensure the involvement of both layers of each governmental institution, in addition to other stakeholders to optimize the mainstreaming of climate change and ensure ownership in decision making.

Clarifications included in the stakeholder engagement paragraph Part 1-B of the EA request.

#### **Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information**

##### **Eligibility Criteria.**

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

## **Secretariat's Comments**

**6/7/2023 PM:**

**Cleared.**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**No.** Please address the following comments:

- **Lessons Learned Note (LLN).** Under the component 5, the development of LLN is mentioned. However, this note hasn't be included as an outcome of the project. Would this be part of the M&E plan? Please clarify and update accordingly.

- **GAAP.** There is a mismatch between the outcome/outputs numbers in the proposal and the GAAP. Please update accordingly. Also, it is not clear the scope of GAAP Indicator "Percentage of women in impacted communities". Shouldn't the baseline for this indicator be different from 0? Please clarify.

## **Agency's Comments**

**UNDP response as of 7 June 2023**

### **Lessons Learned Note (LLN)**

The LLN will be part of the M&E plan of the project, and this activity has been moved from outcome 5 to outcome 6.

Revisions made in outcome 5 and 6, and M&E section in the EA request.

### **GAAP**

GAAP has been updated as a separate document and has been added to annex 10 of the ProDoc.

As for the indicator on "Percentage of women in impacted communities", there is currently no baseline indicator as no study on loss and damage has been undertaken yet in Lebanon. The baseline has changed from "0" to N/A?

### **Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

**6/7/2023 PM:**

**Cleared.**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**No.** The project will be both implemented and executed by UNDP. This has been cleared by the GEF in an email on October 19, 2022 (related evidence is uploaded in the portal). A firewall between implementing and executing activities has been partly identified in the project proposal. We understand two different UNDP teams will be implementing and executing the project. If so, please elaborate further on these teams and the firewall between them.

Agency's Comments

**UNDP response as of 7 June 2023**

UNDP is the executing agency for this project; therefore, a strict firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and project execution undertaken by UNDP. UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function ? is performed by the Resident Representative who will be on the Project Board and the Deputy Resident Representative who will provide project assurance with the support of the Energy and Environment Programme team at the technical level.

UNDP's execution role in the project is performed by the Project Management Unit when the respective staff of Finance, Procurement, and HR Units, who will report to the CO Head of Operations, will provide execution support.

Clarifications added to Section 2-D of the EA request.

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** The M&E budget for the project is \$55.090 or approximately 5% of the project funding.



Agency's Comments

**Section 3. Information Tables**

**GEF resource availability.**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.**

**Agency Response**

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments

**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments  
**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's Comments  
**5/8/2023 PM:**

**N/A.**

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments  
**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** This is in line with Information Note  
GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

Agency's Comments  
**Rio Markers.**  
**Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?**

Secretariat's Comments  
**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.**

Agency's Comments  
**Country endorsement.**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal**

Secretariat's Comments  
**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** The project has been endorsed by the country's GEF OFP and the endorsed amounts are consistent with the amounts in the Portal.

Agency's Comments

**Response to Comments**

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)**

**Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**Council comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**STAP comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

N/A.

Agency's Comments

**Project Budget Table.**

**Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

Secretariat's Comments

**6/7/2023 PM:**

**Cleared.**

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**No.** Please address the following comments:

- The budget table has been disaggregated by components and sub-components. However, only sub-components 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 and 5.1 have been identified. Please update and/or remove the sub-component level.
- Miscellaneous expenses are not eligible under the GEF guidelines. Please update these expenses accordingly.
- Since translator services are related to Component 5, please consider moving these expenses to Component 5.

Agency's Comments

**UNDP response as of 7 June 2023**

- subcomponents have been removed from the budget table
- Miscellaneous expenses have been removed from the budget and have been added to office supplies account (72500)
- translator has been moved to component 5

Updated budget table has been included in the EA request, ProDoc and is available as a separate file.

**Environmental and Social Safeguards.**

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached?  
(only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Comments

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** ESS documents have been attached. The overall project risk is categorized as low risk.

Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

**6/7/2023 PM:**

**Yes.** GEF Sec comments have been properly addressed.

**5/8/2023 PM:**

**No.** Please address comments above.

**REVIEW DATE(S)**

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat comments**

<b>First Review</b>	<b>5/8/2023</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	