GEF-8 REQUEST FOR MSP (1-STEP) APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION 3

Project Information 3

Project Summary 4

Project Description Overview 5

PROJECT COMPONENTS 5

PROJECT OUTLINE 8

A. PROJECT RATIONALE 8

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION 18

Project description 18

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project. 48

Core Indicators 54

Risks to Project Implementation 54

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES 56

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS 59

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: 59

Stakeholder Engagement 60

Private Sector 60

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks 60

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS 61

Knowledge management 61

Benefits 61

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES 62

GEF Financing Table 62

Project Preparation Grant (PPG) 62

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation 62

Focal Area Elements 63

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type 63

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS 63

GEF Agency(ies) Certification 63

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s): 63

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK 64

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG) 68

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES 68

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING 68

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE 69

General Project Information

Project Information

Project Title:	
Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising	
Region:	GEF Project ID:
Global	11308
Country(ies):	Type of Project:
Global	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Project ID:
FAO	736742
Project Executing Entity(s):	Project Executing Type:
FAO	GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s):	Submission Date:
Climate Change	5/29/2023
Type of Trust Fund:	Project Duration (Months):
GET	36
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,000,000.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
190,000.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,190,000.00	5,176,416.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
0.00	0.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
0.00	2,190,000.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: Yes NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	
Project Sector (CCM Only):	
AFOLU	

Taxonomy:

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Communications, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Gender Equality, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Beneficiaries, Academia, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Education, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Seminar, Training, Master Classes, Course

Rio Markers

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

Project Summary

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

The agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sector is responsible for almost one-fourth of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The emissions are mainly due to deforestation and agricultural practices. They are expected to increase significantly in developing countries due to the projected increase in food production and land conversions. The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 reported that he rate of net forest loss decreased over the period 1990–2020, due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in forest area in others, through afforestation and the natural expansion of forests.

Forests and land use are key components of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), estimated to provide a quarter of planned emission reductions, as signaled by the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use under which over 141 countries have pledged to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030. Transparent monitoring and reporting of these actions will require improved forest and emission removals data, improved access to appropriate technical and innovative solutions and the strengthening of institutional arrangements of national forest monitoring systems (NFMS). This will ensure transparent and sustainable reporting to track progress towards ambitious forest and land use commitments, NDCs and implementation of global climate action.

The “Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising' was designed to accelerate capacity building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising focuses on helping developing countries meet the enhanced transparency requirements (ETF) of the Paris Agreement.

The new project will be built on the experience and results from the 'Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector, CBIT-Forest, implemented between 2020-2022 (CBIT-Forest (2020-2022)). It will focus on enhancing quality, timeliness, accessibility and usability of forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement; developing capacities to work towards open and transparent data at the national, regional and global levels through innovative global composite learning programs combining virtual and in-person training; sharing knowledge as the international momentum builds surrounding forests and transparency; and cementing networks regionally and with new partners such as academia to ensure sustainability and transparency of forest reporting.

The new project is responding to identified barriers to enhanced transparency, including i) documented MRV/ETF gaps and needs related to data collection and quality of data, highlighted by a recent CGE UNFCCC global assessment; ii) collection and updated forest information logistically challenging and expensive, as forests are often located in remote areas; and iii) improved data and data availability to advance reporting, linking to global-regional-country Capacity-Building efforts. The project will directly benefit 1000 individuals and at least 20 countries and more broadly 236 countries and territories that are part of the FRA national correspondent network.

The new project will work to maintain the momentum gained to engage countries on transparent and open data for climate action. Project interventions will accelerate and contribute to getting consistent and accurate forest-related data for improved global and national reporting efforts under the ETF, guided by Decision 18/CMA.1 on the MPG, while involving a series of key stakeholders at global and national levels. Increased transparency of forest-related data will also contribute to the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and build trust and global confidence in the progress.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Developing countries have enhanced capacity, knowledge and awareness on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Project Components

Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
650,092.00	3,000,000.00

Outcome:

1. Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data to respond to the transparency requirements

Output:

1.1 To facilitate access to best available forest resources data, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data entry, review, reporting and dissemination platform improved with additional functionalities

1.2 The FRA platform contains the most updated, reviewed and validated data for countries and territories of the world to support global forest transparency

1.3 Networking, communication and awareness raising with focal points from the different forest-related data collection and reporting processes, to report transparent and consistent forest data.

Enhanced technical capacity and knowledge sharing of governmental counterparts on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the transparency framework

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
788,446.00	1,577,000.00

Outcome:

2. Improved National Forest Monitoring Systems through enhanced technical capacity of countries to monitor and report forests, and share knowledge to support the ETF implementation, with attention to gender

Output:

2.1 Forest data sharing enhanced through their publication in an open and digital platform.

2.2 Enhanced technical capacity of forest and climate stakeholders on available platforms, resources and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis to support transparency reporting (e.g. Open Foris).

2.3 Knowledge sharing networks on national forest inventories facilitated and improved at national/regional levels to support forest transparency

Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
290,654.00	81,774.00

Outcome:

3. Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency

Output:

3.1 New set of knowledge products on successful forest data transparency-related activities developed and disseminated.

3.2 Project communication and outreach strategy designed and implemented

3.3 Project results successfully monitored and reported

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
97,687.00	

Outcome:

Project lessons monitored, documented and reported on

Output:

Project successfully managed and monitored

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements	650,092.00	3,000,000.00
Enhanced technical capacity and knowledge sharing of governmental counterparts on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the transparency framework	788,446.00	1,577,000.00
Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	290,654.00	81,774.00
M&E	97,687.00	
Subtotal	**1,826,879.00**	**4,658,774.00**
Project Management Cost	173,121.00	517,642.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**2,000,000.00**	**5,176,416.00**

Please provide justification

N/A

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

The agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sector is responsible for almost one-fourth of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The emissions are due to deforestation and agricultural practices. They are expected to increase significantly in developing countries due to the projected increase in food production and land conversions.[1][1] The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 reported the world has a forest area of 4.06 billion hectares, 31 percent of the total land area. The rate of net forest loss decreased over the period 1990–2020, due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in forest area in others, through afforestation and the natural expansion of forests. Africa had the most considerable annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 million ha, followed by South America at 2.6 million ha. Asia had the highest net gain in forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.[3]

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's sixth assessment report (AR6)[2][2] describes that between 2020 and 2050, mitigation measures in forests and other natural ecosystems provide the largest share of the AFOLU mitigation potential (up to USD100 tCO2-eq-1), followed by agriculture and demand-side measures. The same report highlights the AFOLU mitigation measures have been well understood for decades. Still, deployment remains slow, and emissions trends indicate unsatisfactory progress despite beneficial contributions to global emissions reduction from forest-related options. It argues that barriers to implementing AFOLU mitigation include, inter alia, insufficient institutional and financial support, uncertainty over long-term additionally and trade-offs, weak governance, insecure land ownership, low incomes, the lack of access to alternative sources of income, limited access to **technology, data, and know-how** is a barrier to implementation.

Including forests in international climate agreements has been complex and is often considered a secondary mitigation option. In the Paris Climate Agreement context, countries submitted their Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDCs), including climate mitigation targets. Assuming full implementation of NDCs, it is expected that l**and use, and forests**, emerge as a vital component of the Paris Agreement; turning globally from a net anthropogenic source during 1990–2010 (1.3 ± 1.1 GtCO2e yr−1) to a net sink of carbon by 2030 (up to −1.1 ± 0.5 GtCO2e yr−1), and providing a quarter of emission reductions planned by countries.[3][3]

Therefore, the **forest** sector is vital for achieving the **Paris Agreement** goals. **Forests** and **land use** are critical components of NDCs, as signaled by the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use[4][4] under which over 141 countries have pledged to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030. Transparently monitoring and reporting these actions will require improved forest and emission removals data, improved access to appropriate technical solutions, strengthening institutional arrangements and ensuring transparent and sustainable reporting to track progress towards the ambitious forest and land use commitments NDCs, and implementation of global climate action. More recently, the XV World Forestry Congress identified the essential role of forests in the international agenda, including the Paris Agreement on climate change, and it identified vital measures and recommendations for enhancing this role. Participants endorsed the Seoul Forest Declaration[5][5] to convey the urgent need for action.

Traditionally, many countries have been producing **information** on forest areas and carbon content using data from forest inventories. In the recent decades countries have also begun to integrate remote sensing to their national forest monitoring systems.[6][6] Combined with the international forest monitoring support, this has improved tropical forest monitoring capacity and increasing number of tropical countries have now good or very good capacities concerning the use of remote sensing (RS) and national forest inventory (NFI).[7][7]

The IPCC's AR6 highlights that implementing robust **measurement, reporting, and verification** (MRV) processes are paramount to improving the transparency of changes in land carbon stocks. Therefore, boosting the transparency of forest data for climate action will be vital to supporting the **enhanced transparency framework** (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. A recent review indicates that in the last decade, country forest-related data has improved in the context of MRV of REDD+. In particular, the use of remote sensing observations to assess forest area change has advanced significantly: satellite imagery has become increasingly available, the quality of imagery has improved over time, and countries have increased their capacity to analyze this imagery.[8][8]

The ETF aims to provide clarity on support provided and received by relevant individual Parties and, to the extent possible, to give a complete overview of aggregate financial aid provided to inform the global stocktake (GS). The ETF builds on the existing MRV framework under the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which requires developing countries to submit National Communications (NC) every four years and Biennial Update Reports (BUR) every two years. Developing countries must also establish MRV activities for their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and voluntarily undertake MRV for REDD+. **Forest data and information** represents a particular challenge for reporting, as forests are often located in remote areas, so collecting and updating forest information can become logistically challenging and expensive.

The Katowice Climate Package has provided the rulebook for implementing the ETF under the Paris Agreement, known as Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) contained in decision 18/CMA.1. More recent guidance for operationalizing the MPGs contained in decision 5/CMA.3 is now available. Under the ETF, Parties are required to submit their first **biennial transparency report** (BTR) and national inventory report, at the latest by 31 December 2024. The least developed countries and small island developing states may submit the information referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement at their discretion. BTRs will collectively be considered an essential input into the GS. The GS aims to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals.

National forest monitoring (NFM) is a comprehensive process that includes systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of forest-related data and the derivation of information, usually from repeated inventories (of both remote sensing and ground data) that allow for the monitoring of change and trends over time.[9][9] It focuses on data supporting forest-related decision-making at international, national, and sub-national levels. A well-established **National Forest Monitoring System** (NFMS) is key to providing data to assess forest-related emissions and removals that support the preparation of the national GHG inventories to be reported in the BUR, NC, BTR, and the NDCs and, more broadly, the enhancement of the NFMS will support the implementation of the ETF. Therefore, solid national capacities are essential to collect, analyze and disseminate forest-related data.

Increased recognition of the importance of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation has resulted in the development of NFMS and an unprecedented increase in the availability and transparency of countries' forest-sector data and information. However, countries still face constraints in maintaining these systems and sharing and using the information they produce for evidence-based policy planning and implementation at national, regional, and global scales. Further capacity-building efforts and tools will enable countries to obtain and communicate accurate and reliable forest-related data to refine policies and decisions to track deforestation drivers, conserve forests, and improve forest management.

Barriers

The barriers identified to solve the identified problem are the following (with the expected outputs from the project).

i) **Lack of user friendly and dynamic tools to collect, analyze and visualize forest-related data, and access relevant freely available remote sensing data and geospatial products to support FRA report**. Countries do not have access to existing geospatial tools which can support crosschecking and completing the report consistently and transparently. The tools will allow countries to collect and analyze up-to-date information on their forest resources as well as report on them to the national and international process and conventions in a transparent manner and on annual basis (output 1.1)

ii) **FRA country reports are outdated and/or incomplete**. Countries do not report up-to-date and reliable data on their forest resources and their changes and making them accessible supports national and international policy formulation, decision-making and impact monitoring through provision of transparent national, regional and global estimates for forest area, forest biomass, carbon stocks and several other variables. Without transparent and complete reporting, the potential of forest to mitigate climate change will remain unknown. Through this action, national and global actors will have access to the best possible forest-related data contributing to the implementation of the ETF under the Paris Agreement. Under FRA BAU scenario countries will update their reports every 5 years. This project (GEF support) will allow FAO to move to a flexible reporting modality, that will allow countries to report latest information they have at any point in time. Moving to this modality will require also capacity-building among local authorities/institutions responsible for the reporting. Allowing the increase in the frequency of reporting will benefit users, including the UNFCCC Secretariat, by giving them immediate and transparent access to the best possible forest resources data.(output 1.2)

iii) **Limited active networking among national institutions and international reporting processes to ensure transparent and consistent reporting**. Countries provide inconsistent and incomplete datasets, compromising a transparent international reporting processes.(output 1.3)

iv) **National attitudes, traditions and policies, and legislation, as well as organizational structures influencing the degree of data sharing culture**. Institutional and legal arrangements will contribute to the creation of clear, well-structured open and transparent sharing of forest data, particularly in circumstances where sensitive data disclosure policies are involved. (output 2.1)

v) **Insufficient awareness of existing forest-related platforms, resources and tools to support national transparency reporting**. Free and open-source tools for collection of up-to-date and reliable forest resource data using remote sensing and field data is key to support the collection and analysis of up-to-date forest-related data. (output 2.2)

vi) **Insufficient institutional arrangements for NFMS prevents its sustainability**. The process of institutionalizing an NFMS means that it is formally, firmly and permanently embedded within a country's forest administration. A firmly institutionalized NFMS helps countries to address challenges related to accessibility, data-sharing and transparency. (output 2.1)

vii) **Lack of knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation at regional level of national forest-data stakeholders**. Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders; providing a framework for cooperation within which exchanges take place among countries and offering technical oversight and ensuring international standards are key aspects for improved data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data will contribute with data transparency(output 2.3)

viii) **Insufficient systematization of free and easily available knowledge material for transparency practitioners**. Practitioners will have access to knowledge products, including training material to ensure raising awareness and compliance with the transparency requirements(output 3.1)

ix) **Reduced means of communication and outreach activities of the project** (output 3.2)

Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

FAO has supported more than 50 many countries in setting up and implementing NFMSs and contributed to significant improvement of the **national forest monitoring capacity** at the global level. However, this needs to be a continuous and sustainable work and needs to be expanded to include other countries still with not or with a deficient system.

The FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring (VGNFM) has provided a series of recommendations to governments with NFMS, donors, and technical support agencies to promote accessible, transparent, reliable, credible, relevant, and sustainable forest monitoring that can satisfy multiple needs and impact policymaking.

A recent study[10]10 has globally assessed the use and **quality of forest monitoring data** sources for national reporting to the FRA in 236 countries and territories. It describes that those countries monitoring forest areas using remote sensing (RS) at good to very good capacities increased from 55 in FRA 2005 to 99 in FRA 2020. Likewise, the number of countries with good to very good national forest inventory (NFI) capacities increased from 48 in FRA 2005 to 102 in FRA 2020. This corresponds to ~85% of the global forest area monitored with one or more nationally produced up-to-date RS products or NFI in FRA 2020.

The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) is a process of compiling, reviewing and publishing official national data and regional and global synthesis on forest resources, their management and use. Since 2000, these assessments have been published every five years and since the FRA 2005, they have been based on data reported to the process by officially nominated **FRA National Correspondents** (**FRA-NC**). The reports prepared by the FRA-NCs are reviewed and published by the FAO. The quality of the data reported by the countries in these assessments has steadily improved as was reported in FRA 2020. However, several countries still need continuing support to develop and sustain their NFMS and consequently report on the state of their forest resources in a transparent and reliable manner.

FRA is the most comprehensive source of **official global forest resource information**. FRA 2020 examined the status and trends, management, and uses of forest resources over the period 1990–2020, focusing on 60

broad variables for 236 countries and territories. The **FRA reporting and dissemination platform**[11]11 was launched in 2021. This platform (available in 6 different languages) allows users to visualize FRA data using dashboards and interact with the complete dataset from the most recent global forest resources assessment. FRA data have been used to refine valuable information for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and FAOSTAT to estimate global carbon dioxide emissions and removals from forest land, including from net forest conversion (used as a proxy for deforestation) for the period 1990-2015.[11] More recently, the FRA 2020 process contributed with updated global GHG estimates for the period 1990-2020.[12]12

The schedule for the ongoing FRA 2025 cycle is as follows: i) regional capacity development workshops (2023); ii) data collection (2023); analysis and report writing (2024); and release of FRA 2025 database and publications (2025). After 2025, the next FRA reports are foreseen for 2030. Under the business as usual (BAU) scenario FRA process and results are not systematically updated within the five-year cycle and can therefore not be used in forthcoming biennial UNFCCC reporting.

The Committee on Forestry (COFO) is the **highest FAO Forestry statutory body**. The biennial sessions of COFO (held at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy) bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, seek solutions and advise FAO and others on appropriate action. Participation in COFO is open to all FAO member countries. COFO sessions have made requests related to forest monitoring. For instance, in 2017 FAO launched the VGNFM in six UN languages – requested during COFO21 session in 2012. Currently, these guidelines are supporting countries in their efforts to set up and strengthen their transparent, reliable, and long-term NFMS.[13]13 An NFMS assessment tool, based on the VGNFM, is also available in 6 UN languages, including quick guidance developed in the framework of the previous CBIT-Forest (2020-2022) project. [14]14

Following COFO23 session request, the **FRA 2020 process** has been adapted, both in terms of scope and reporting periodicity, to better respond to recent developments in the international forest policy arena, such as the agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Paris Agreement.

FAO released the FRA reporting platform in early 2018 for the FRA 2020 process data entry, review, and validation. The platform's functionalities reduced the reporting burden on countries, increased consistency of reported data, facilitated interaction between the **FRA-NC** and report reviewers and streamlined the report approval and validation processes. The platform functions also as a dissemination tool, offering public access to all data and metadata that the countries reported to FRA 2020, including for two Sustainable Development

Goal 15 indicators (15.1.1 “Forest area as a proportion of total land area” and 15.2.1 “Progress towards sustainable forest management”) and most of the indicators of the Global Core Set (GCS). The CBIT-Forest (2020-22) contributed with an upgraded platform with new dissemination functionalities. Since its release, FAO has continuously improved the platform functionalities based on the users’ feedback to enhance data visualization of and access to country and region-specific data. This includes hosting the quantitative pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management that were collected jointly by FAO, Forest Europe and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The collaboration in joint data collection will be further strengthened by integrating the quantitative questionnaire fully into the platform.

FRA 2025 data collection will start in early 2023. The FRA process is based on close collaboration with the countries through the global network of FRA-NC which is key for the success of the FRA process and leads to better use of existing data and an increased ownership of the process. The results from FRA helps shape policy and to inform and encourage forest-related decisions. It also supports countries in reporting to the main forest-related processes, including the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the UNFCCC, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FRA is responsible for collecting data, analyzing them, and reporting on two indicators of the SDG 15- Life on Land.

Support on **forest monitoring** is being frequently requested by governments on forest-related processes and evidence from national and global forest monitoring assessments (see recommendations of Regional Forest Commissions to FAO: APFC29[15]15, LACFC32[16]16 , NAFC31[17]17, EFC41[18]18 and NEFRC25.[19]19 It was also be highlighted during the Twenty-sixth Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO26) [20]20 where there is an intrinsic indication to continue supporting data and **forest transparency for climate action**.

In addition, the concept of a forest inventory network was presented during the 31st meeting of the FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (COFLAC), in which the delegates recommended that FAO 'revitalize regional networks [...] and consolidate the monitoring network and forest inventories'; and 'foster the development of capacity for inventories, forest monitoring of plantations and native forests and facilitate the monitoring of national REDD+ initiatives' (FAO, 2019). At the 32nd COFLAC meeting, four countries recommended that FAO continue supporting the consolidation of the national forest inventory networks in the region (FAO, 2021a). In the case of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC, 2017), a recommendation was made to promote multipurpose national forest inventories and south-south collaboration for knowledge and technology transfer.

In 2021, a UNFCCC survey report[21][21], highlighted that 49% (53% in 2019) of respondents[22][22] identified **data collection** as the most challenging phase in the national report preparation process. In 2022, similar figures were reported in the last UNFCCC survey report.[23][23] While the top-3 recurrent categories of issues in preparing national GHG inventories by order of significance were: i) 'institutional capacity to retain skills or knowledge gained from training'; ii) 'coordination across sectors or institutions to collect and share data'; and iii) 'lack of availability of **quality data**'.

The UNFCCC also reported[24][24] examples from categories of issues associated with preparing national GHG inventories, including **data collection** and **availability of quality data**. For many developing country Parties, the **data collection** process it a significant challenge due to outdated, incomplete, or incompatible and set up a database. Several Parties expressed the need to harmonize and standardize the data collection process and prioritize data collection for certain sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and land use. Some expressed the need to improve their methodologies and procedures for gathering activity data and to develop country specific emission factors. Many developing country Parties stated that lack of the **availability of quality data** impeded the accurate estimation of emissions. The data issues reported related to unavailability of activity data, inconsistency in reported years and inconsistency between data sources. In some cases, lack of quality data was due to an **inadequate data collection** process. It has been confirmed by a recent global review[25][25] that reported that the quality and quantity of the LULUCF data submitted by countries to the UNFCCC significantly improved in recent years, however, important gaps remain. Most developing countries still do not explicitly separate managed vs. unmanaged forest land, a few reports implausibly high forest sinks, and several report incomplete estimates.

Countries will be able to comply with regular reporting of their national GHG inventories and tracking progress of NDCs, as stated under Art 13 of the Paris Agreement, only if data is accessible, available and usable. In fact, despite the enhanced role of the forest and land use sector in new and updated NDCs, only about 20 percent of all NDCs include quantifiable targets for this sector (FAO, 2022). Transparency considerations under the ETF will inform other major global forest initiatives under the UNFCCC – such as the Glasgow leaders' declaration on forests and land use and the Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership.

Associated baseline projects include:

Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector' (CBIT-Forest) – 2020-2022 – the project aimed to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to collect, analyze and disseminate forest-related data. It supported countries in meeting the ETF requirements of the Paris Agreement. The project was complementary to ongoing activities at global, regional and national levels,

helping to raise awareness, deliver capacity building, and define knowledge products that successfully contributed to the implementation of the ETF.

The project successfully contributed to promoting transparency, and to building and maintaining institutional capacity in **49 countries** and achieved through numerous activities. The FRA reporting platform was upgraded, enhancing access to key forest-related data and information at the country level. The project also had a strong Capacity-Development focus, including, among other activities, massive open online courses (MOOCs) on forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement, and the first self-paced e-learning course. Knowledge exchange was carried out with 21 countries through webinars; and six case studies on successful forest transparency-related activities from Africa, Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean were developed and disseminated. Global knowledge and communications products were produced in multiple languages, to share messages, experiences, or tools that could help countries increase forest data transparency and improve national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) for consistent international reporting. The number of individuals who benefited directly from pilot country work activities, regional networks, webinars, e-learning, and MOOC was **9 802 (39 percent women).**

The relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impacts and sustainability were all enhanced by building on ongoing FAO work, internal and external networks, and platforms, globally and at the country level during the project design and implementation. The number of individuals who benefited directly from pilot country work activities, regional networks, webinars, e-learning, and MOOC was 9 802 (39 percent women). The **new** project will build on experiences and lessons learned (https://www.fao.org/3/cc0532en/cc0532en.pdf) and recommendations from the final evaluation report (https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8908en).

As for the first phase of CBIT-Forest (2020-2022), national CBIT projects will benefit from global activities and products foreseen under this **new** project. The main mechanism to share knowledge will be the CBIT-GSP Climate Transparency platform (https://climate-transparency-platform.org/), implemented by GEF ID 10088 (see description in the next paragraphs).

Forest and Land Monitoring for Climate Action – SEPAL Phase 2. System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) is a free, open-source, cloud-based computing platform for fast access and processing of remotely sensed data sources designed to help countries build monitoring systems capable of producing high-quality statistics with no barriers to access and use. The project was launched in 2014 and ran until 2021, and has been succeeded by a second phase, which is expected to run until 2025. Successfully building upon the first phase, the objectives are to operationalize and institutionalize technology and new imagery for accurate, transparent, and accessible geospatial data for reducing deforestation and degradation, and in turn catalysing restoration and conservation as a significant contribution to the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

The ***Enhancing accuracy, accessibility and transparency of global forest resources data with technical innovations - a focus on joining forces in Africa.*** This project was developed to support the achievement of the forest related SDGs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and objectives of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and its Global Forest Goals. The project will contribute to halting deforestation and forest degradation through promotion and enabling of sustainable management and use of forests with increased economic, social, and environmental benefits.

The Improving and disseminating global information on forest status, management and use to achieve forest-related goals, targets and commitments project will be implemented over a period of three years and will contribute to the implementation of the EU action "***Global information on forests and biodiversity for better implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework".*** The project will rely on a collaborative effort of hundreds of national and international experts. Data collection will involve the participation of the FRA-NC within each of the 236 countries and territories participating in the FRA process. In addition, FAO will work closely with several organizations, in particular partners of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), to reduce the reporting burden on countries, as well as with other international partners, that will contribute to specific technical aspects of the programme.

The *Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement* (GEF ID 10088) project over a period of five years will provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level, to enable Non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements. It will enable countries to catalyse increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees, and if possible, 1.5 degrees.

This **new** project will build upon FAO's worldwide network(s) and partnership(s) established by the FRA and NFM teams and is complementary to on-going activities at global and national levels. Due to its international mandate, long history and expertise in global forest resources assessments and country support to enhance national forest monitoring systems, the FRA and NFM teams, respectively, located under a cross cutting stream of '*Forest Data and Statistics*' of the FAO's Forestry Division are well equipped to lead the implementation of this new project.

---

[1] Smith P, Bustamante M, Ahammad H, Clark H, Dong H, Elsiddig EA, Haberl H, Harper R, House J, Jafari M, Masera O, Mbow C, Ravindranath NH, Rice CW, Abad CR, Romanovskaya A, Sperling F, Tubiello FN. Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). In: Edenhofer O, Pichs-Madruga R, Sokona Y, et al., editors. Climate change 2014: mitigation of climate change. Contribution of working group III to the fifth assessment report of the intergovernmental panel on climate change. Cambridge, and New York: Cambridge University Press; 2014. p. 811–922.

[2] IPCC. 2021. Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/.

[3] Grassi G, House J, Denter F, Federici S, den Elzen M, Penman J. 2017. The key role of forest in meeting climate targets requieres science for credible mitigation. Nature Climate Change volume 7, pages220–226 (2017). Available at: https://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate3227?WT.feed_name=subjects_climate-change-mitigation

[4] UNFCCC, 2021. COP26-The Glasgow Climate Pact. United Nations Climate Change Conference UK 2021. Available at: https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/COP26-Presidency-Outcomes-The-Climate-Pact.pdf

[5] FAO 2022. The Seoul Forest Declaration. XV World Forestry Congress. Seoul, Republic of Korea. Available at: https://www.fao.org/3/cc0160en/cc0160en.pdf

[6] Karimon N, Herold M, De Sy V, Duchelle A, Martius C, Branthomme A, Garzuglia M, Jonsson O, Pekkarinen A. 2021. An assessment of data sources, data quality and changes in national forest monitoring capacities in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005–2020. *Environ. Res. Lett.*16054029. Avaliable at: https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abd81b/meta

[7] Romijn E, Herold M, Kooistra L, Murdiyarso D and Verchot L 2012 Assessing capacities of non-annex I countries for national forest monitoring in the context of REDD+ Environ. Sci. Policy 19–20 33–48

[8] https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/material/publications/iufro-series/ws40/ws40.pdf

[9] FAO. 2017. Voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring.Rome, FAO. Available at: https://doi.org/10.4060/i6767en

[10] Mst Karimon Nesha *et al* 2021 *Environ. Res. Lett.* **16** 054029. Available at. https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/abd81b/meta

[11] https://fra-data.fao.org/

[12] https://essd.copernicus.org/preprints/essd-2020-203/essd-2020-203.pdf

[13] https://www.fao.org/3/i6767en/i6767en.pdf

[14] https://www.fao.org/3/cb0988en/CB0988EN.pdf

[15] Recommendations of the 29th Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC29). https://www.fao.org/3/cb9178en/cb9178en.pdf

[16] Recommendations of the 32nd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC32) https://www.fao.org/3/cb7404en/cb7404en.pdf

[17] Recommendations from the 31st Session of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC31). https://www.fao.org/3/cc0219en/cc0219en.pdf

[18] Recommendations of the 41st Session of the European Forestry Commission (EFC41). https://www.fao.org/3/ni197en/ni197en.pdf

[19] Recommendations of the 25th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC25). https://www.fao.org/3/cb8337en/cb8337en.pdf

[20] COFO/2022/6.3 Global Forest Resources Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey. https://www.fao.org/3/nj908en/nj908en.pdf

[21] CGE Stocktake Survey Report 2021 | UNFCCC

[22] 49 developing countries participated: : 17 from African States, 8 from Asia-Pacific States, 15 from Latin America and Caribbean States and 6 from Eastern European, and Western European and other States

[23] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2022_inf12.pdf

[24] tp2021_02.pdf (unfccc.int)

[25] https://essd.copernicus.org/preprints/essd-2022-104/

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project's Theory of Change

Objective statement: *Developing countries have enhanced capacity, knowledge and awareness on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.*

Successful delivery of global environmental benefits through the project will be measured as follows: number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and age (GEF Core indicator 11). Further, the **new** project will achieve benefits and rely on at least one influencing model[1]26: *strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making processes*.

The **new** project will be built on the experience and results from the 'Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector, CBIT-Forest, implemented between 2020-2022 (CBIT-Forest (2020-2022)). The **new** project will engage countries in transparent and open data for climate action, while working to consolidate global capacity building, knowledge sharing and awareness raising of forest-related data in support of the ETF requirements. The **new** project will focus on enhancing quality, timeliness, accessibility and usability of global forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement; developing capacities to work towards open and transparent data and at the global level through innovative global composite learning programs combining virtual and in-person training; sharing knowledge as the international momentum builds surrounding forests and transparency; and cementing networks regionally and with new partners such as academia to ensure sustainability and transparency of forest reporting.

During the formulation of the project, the identified problem was '*Developing countries with low capacity for forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and in line with national priorities".*

The **new** project presents three complementary and interlinked components that will provide the needed elements to reduce the impact of the barriers.

In order to achieve the first outcome '*Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data to respond to the transparency requirements*' the **new** project will facilitate access to best available forest resources data, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data entry, review, reporting and dissemination platform improved with additional functionalities; ensure the FRA platform contains the most updated, reviewed and validated data for countries and territories of the world to support global forest transparency; and work towards networking, communication and awareness raising with focal points from the different forest-related data collection and reporting processes, to report transparent and consistent forest data.

The **added value of the new project with respect to FRA BAU scenario** is that the FRA-NC network and data are leveraged to make updated, reliable and accessible data available for the ETF by:

- Establishing a mechanism for flexible FRA reporting, which allows voluntary annual updates of national reports for reporting progress towards the NDCs, restoration commitments, GFG and SDGs
- Providing FRA-NC and their collaborators in 236 countries and territories access to latest available remote sensing data and geospatial products to support reporting on forests and their dynamics
- Increasing the awareness of the FRA-NC and their collaborators on the ETF through provision and promotion of related Capacity-Building materials
- Establishing open communication and information exchange channels between FRA-NC and UNFCCC national focal points in the countries to ensure consistent use of best available data.

To achieve the second outcome '*Improved National Forest Monitoring Systems through enhanced technical capacity of countries to monitor and report forests, and share knowledge to support the ETF implementation, with attention to gender*' the **new** project will support forest data sharing through the publication in an open and digital platform; enhance technical capacity of forest and climate stakeholders on available platforms, resources and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis to support transparency reporting; and facilitate knowledge sharing networks on national forest inventories at national/regional levels to support forest transparency.

To achieve the third outcome '*Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency'* the **new** project will develop and disseminate a set of knowledge products on successful forest data transparency; design and implement the project communication and outreach strategy; and monitor and report project results.

Theory of change of the new project

Objective: _Developing countries have enhanced capacity, knowledge and awareness on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.		
1. Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data to respond to the transparency requirements	**2. Improved National Forest Monitoring Systems through enhanced technical capacity of countries to monitor and report forests, and share knowledge to support the ETF implementation, with attention to gender**	**3. Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency**
To facilitate access to best available forest resources data, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data entry, review, reporting and dissemination platform improved with additional functionalities	Forest data sharing enhanced through their publication in an open and digital platform.	New set of knowledge products on successful forest data transparency-related developed and disseminated.

The FRA platform contains the most updated, reviewed and validated data for countries and territories of the world to support global forest transparency	Enhanced technical capacity of forest and climate stakeholders on available platforms, resources and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis to support transparency reporting (e.g. Open Foris)	Project communication and outreach strategy designed and implemented
Networking, communication and awareness raising with focal points from the different forest-related data collection and reporting processes, to report transparent and consistent forest data.	Knowledge sharing networks on national forest inventories facilitated and improved at national/regional levels to support forest transparency	Project results successfully monitored and reported
Lack of user friendly and dynamic tools to collect, analyze and visualize forest-related data, and access relevant freely available remote sensing data and geospatial products to support FRA report. The provision of tools will allow countries to collect and analyse up-to-date information on their forest resources as well as report on them to the national and international process and conventions in a transparent manner and on annual basis FRA Country reports are outdated and/or incomplete. Report up-to-date and reliable data on their forest resources and their changes and making them accessible supports national and international policy formulation, decision-making and impact monitoring through provision of transparent national, regional and global estimates for forest area, forest biomass, carbon stocks and several other variables. Limited active networking among national institutions and international reporting processes to ensure transparent and consistent reporting. FRA is the only globally mandated process that collects comprehensive official data on forest resources in a systematic manner. Such process and global coordination in gathering and analyzing forest related data as well as in facilitating access to them are fundamental to monitor progress towards sustainable forest management and to support international decision-making.	National attitudes, traditions and policies, and legislation, as well as organizational structures influencing the degree of data sharing culture. Comprehensive legal arrangements, built upon trust and continuous support will greatly contribute to the creation of clear, well-structured open and transparent sharing of forest data - particularly in circumstances where sensitive data disclosure policies are involved. Insufficient awareness of existing forest-related platforms, resources and tools to support national transparency reporting. Free and open-source tools for collection of up-to-date and reliable forest resource data using remote sensing (RS) and field inventories is key to support the collection and analysis of up-to-date forest-related data. Insufficient institutional arrangements for NFMS prevents its sustainability. The process of institutionalizing an NFMS means that it is formally, firmly and permanently embedded within a country's forest administration. A firmly institutionalized NFMS helps to address some challenges related to accessibility, data-sharing and transparency. Lack of knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation at regional level of national forest-data stakeholders. Facilitating dialogue between stakeholders; providing a framework for cooperation within	Insufficient systematization of free and easily available knowledge material for transparency practitioners. Reduced means of communication and outreach activities of the project.

	which exchanges take place among countries and offering technical oversight and ensuring international standards are key aspects to support in forest monitoring for improved data collection, analysis and dissemination.
Developing countries with low capacity for forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and in line with national priorities	

By identifying innovative and targeted Capacity-Building delivery approaches, including online tutored courses and blended learning programs on forest and ETF, FAO will continue to mobilize and build on in-house resources, experience, and expertise for enhanced implementation of the Capacity-Building activities. Significantly, the project will maximize impact by leveraging FAO's already existing partners (Global Forest Observation Initiative - GFOI, UNFCCC, IPCC, etc.) and technical (Google, NASA, Academia) partnerships, its unique global FRA-NC network covering 186 countries and territories, CFRQ and CPF as well as collaborate with the CBIT-GSP platform and other implementing initiatives (e.g., ICAT) and agencies (e.g., UNEP, UNDP).

Project interventions will accelerate and contribute to getting consistent and accurate forest-related data for improved global and national reporting efforts under the ETF, guided by Decision 18/CMA.118 on the MPG, while involving a series of key stakeholders at global and national levels. Global environment benefits are expected to be sustained in the medium to long term thanks to coordinated international and national forest-related ongoing initiatives to better respond to the transparency framework.

Increased transparency of forest-related data will also contribute to the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement and build trust and global confidence in the progress. The **new** project will ensure meaningful gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of gender-responsive approaches in line with the relevant policy, strategy, and guidance from the FAO and the GEF.

The following section will describe the project components, outcomes, and outputs.

Component 1: Enhancing access and use of the best available forest-related data in support of the transparency requirement

Component 1 will contribute with two CBIT programming directions: i) ‘building on existing best practice materials, sharing of tools, methodologies, and data, and technical consultations on lessons learned from ongoing/existing assessments’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21b**) and ii) ‘regional and global capacity-building programs to enhance transparency’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21d**).

The barriers that component 1 will focuses on lack of user friendly and dynamic tools to collect, analyze and visualize forest-related data, and access relevant freely available remote sensing data and geospatial products to support FRA report; FRA Country reports are outdated and/or incomplete; and limited active networking among national institutions and international reporting processes to ensure transparent and consistent reporting.

FRA is the world's most comprehensive source of forest resources information. Improving the **transparency** of forest-related data and information is key to sustainably manage, use, and protect the world's forests. Since 2005, the FRA process has been based on a global network of officially nominated FRA-NCs who collect and compile data from national sources and report to the FRA. This network is the backbone of FRA and allows access to the best available official and most up-to-date information about forest resources from all countries and territories. The reporting is being done through a new online platform allowing FRA-NC to enter national data in a standardized format. Data sources, national classifications, and definitions are added together with the original data, ensuring transparency in the reported data. In addition, the FRA platform helps facilitate the review process, contributing to increased transparency.

A critical element for the formulation of this component was the comprehensive stakeholder consultation carried out during the implementation of the CBIT-Forest (2020-22). An online survey was done and interviews with key stakeholders' representatives and assessed these groups' interests, concerns, and potential contributions regarding forest monitoring and reporting. Two main instruments were used in the last years used: the FRA survey, carried out in 2020[1], and the FRA Platform User Consultation (2021)[2][27]; both surveys included gender aspects, informing a stakeholder engagement plan, and clarifying all stakeholders' roles and means of engagement. The results of the assessment provided the needed requirements to be improved in the FRA platform, according to the users.

More recently, the online Expert Consultation on "Global Forest Resources Assessment: Towards FRA2025" took place (19-23 September 2022). It discussed FRA 2025 timeline, the FRA-NC network and capacity development plan, reviewed and validated FRA 2025 country reports and data analysis and proposals for the dissemination of the results. FRA 2025 reporting process will be launched in February 2023. The **new** project will finance the improvements or inclusion of new functionalities/modules in the FRA platform based on identified user needs. Following the gender analysis recommendations, the FRA 2025 process has encouraged the nomination of qualified women as FRA-NC or alternates to increase women participation with respect to FRA 2020 reporting process (17%).

This **new** project will enhance an already existing and well-known global forest reporting process with outputs that will have a catalytic effect in moving towards data transparency.

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. **Section 9** of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing, and cost on this topic.

Expected outcome: Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data to respond to the transparency requirements.

Indicators of success: Number of users accessing the FRA 2025 platform per month (target: 1600); Number of page views in the FRA 2025 platform per month (target: 4000).

The Workplan in Annex H provides details on the planned activities and timing for delivering quality products and results.

This component proposes the following **outputs**:

Output 1.1 To facilitate access to best available forest resources data, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data entry, review, reporting and dissemination platform improved with additional functionalities:

The FAO's Global Forest Assessment programme has been working on improving its online platform. However, still more functionalities can be developed and implemented to improve users' access to existing forest information and to facilitate the data entry, update, and review process as well as the dissemination of the information, which at the end contributes to increasing transparency.

This output will support improvement of FRA online platform to enhance or include new features that can facilitate the data entry, review and validation needed during the FRA 2025 country reporting process. In particular, enhancements to increase user-friendliness, on the validation checks and the addition of observation status flags to reported data will support **data quality** and **transparency**. The data repository will be improved to further expand the platform functionalities for a multitude of users. Also improving access to existing geospatial data will enhance global data collection, analysis and reporting of forest-related data.

The activities for this output are: 1.1.1 Review the recommendations of the FRA platform user consultation; 1.1.2 Implement and publish the new and/or improved functionalities; 1.1.3 Pilot uploading and sharing of national geospatial data for selected countries; 1.1.4 Collect and analyze FRA platform user feedback.

Output 1.2 The FRA platform contains the most updated, reviewed and validated data for countries and territories of the world to support global forest transparency

Countries report data to FAO through a standardized reporting process that ensures consistency across countries and transparency. Building capacity of FRA-NC to prepare transparent FRA 2025 reports is essential to ensure that the information reported to FRA 2025 is complete, accurate, transparent, and updated. This includes training FRA-NC and their collaborators on the use of the FRA online data entry platform and on FRA 2025 reporting standards, and ensuring that data reported to FRA is consistent, harmonized and well documented through a careful review process. In addition, countries will have on a voluntary basis, the possibility to update their national report when they have new data, without waiting the 5 years cycle. This necessitates building awareness and capacities on the update modalities.

Activities for this output are 1.2.1 Build the capacity of FRA-NC to prepare transparent FRA 2025 reports and do flexible voluntary updates; 1.2.2 Organize regional workshops for reporting, review, and finalization of the FRA 2025 reports; 1.2.3 Update FRA database with best available forest resources data; 1.2.4 Publish and translate FRA 2025 key findings in 6 UN languages.

Output 1.3 Networking, communication and awareness raising with focal points from the different forest-related data collection and reporting processes, to report transparent and consistent forest data.

One vital element of FRA process is networking, communication, and information exchange. This output will strengthen the critical communication needed for the FRA 2025 global process, which involves FRA-

NC network and different forest-related focal points such as those of UNFCCC and SDG. ‘Coordination across sectors or institutions to collect and share data’ is one of the top barriers reported by the 2021 UNFCCC survey report. Therefore, this output will contribute to address this barrier by working with different forest-related focal points.

Exchanging lessons learned with other FRA-NCs contributes to mutual learning and development of better skills and knowledge on data collection, management, documentation, and reporting and will build trust among forest-related focal points.

FRA process builds on existing partnerships. The reporting is coordinated closely with the partners of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire: the FAO, Forest Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Observatory of Central African Forests (OFAC/COMIFAC) and the Montréal Process. In addition, the process feeds data and information directly into several different regional and global processes including the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and United Nations Forum for Forests.

Activities for this output are 1.3.1 Establish communication with newly nominated FRA National Correspondents; 1.3.2 Strengthen collaboration among Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire and other relevant partners; 1.3.3 Develop interactive material to support capacity development and raise awareness with FRA National Correspondents and focal points from the different forest-related reporting processes; 1.3.4 Conduct and disseminate an analysis on linkages and potential synergies between UNFCCC BTR and FRA reporting.

Following recommendation from CBIT-Forest (2020-22) final evaluation, this new project will make use of CBIT-developed material, as appropriate and in the provision of support to countries based on new requests, including the identification of material that might be translated to enhance transparency and accessibility of forest-related information. For example, the promotion of the eLearning course on ‘Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement’[3][28], available in six UN languages, is foreseen.

Component 2: Developing countries continue to build their capacity for forest monitoring and reporting, and share knowledge and progress to support the transparency framework

Component 2 will contribute with five CBIT programming directions: i) 'development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency and building capacity; elaborating on existing materials’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21b**), ii) 'regional and global capacity-building programs to enhance transparency’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21d**), iii) ‘collaborating with IPCC, UNFCCC bodies on transparency and capacity building’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21 g, h**) and iv) ‘exchange of transparency practitioners and experts, planners and implementers: south-south exchange of experiences and lessons learned’ (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21 e**).

Component 2, will respond to the following barriers: national attitudes, traditions and policies, and legislation, as well as organizational structures influencing the degree of data sharing culture; insufficient awareness of existing forest-related platforms, resources, and tools to support national transparency

reporting; insufficient institutional arrangements for national forest monitoring system (NFMS) prevents its sustainability; and lack of knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation at regional level of national forest-data stakeholders.

Some recent FAO reports highlighted that much progress has already been achieved in forest monitoring over the past decade, but significant capacity gaps remain. Forest monitoring has much improved, especially in technical aspects, while institutional and procedural aspects of forest monitoring need further strengthening.[4]29,[5]30

However, as the collection of data improves, it is also noticed that a high percentage of the collected information over the past 20 years through national forest inventory (NFI) remains under-utilized or unknown. The CBIT-Forest (2020-22) promoted FAO member countries to aggregate, harmonize, and standardize data in a single global repository of forest field observations. Countries were provided with a free of charge, stable and secure way to keep and archive micro and metadata. However, there are obstacles which were identified include: i) initial reluctance by countries to share forest data motivated by fears of illegal logging or simply losing control of their data; ii) lack of an initial data-hosting infrastructure is also often a deterrent in countries to open data; and iii) need for comprehensive legal arrangements support that will contribute to the creation of clear, well-structured open and transparent sharing of forest data.

Under CBIT-Forest (2020-22), some countries have already started to share their micro and metadata using the FAO's Food and Agriculture Microdata Catalogue (FAM), and it is expected that more countries can join this global open data effort. The CBIT-Forest (2020-22) also developed the protocols, process on how to proceed with this important initiative, with the new project, lessons learned will help to speed up the member countries engagement and contribute with data transparency. The new project will provide more elements on the added value of this resource and the possibilities that it will bring to the users. The work with this global open data effort would significantly increase transparency of data and information related to forest carbon stocks and, therefore, support tracking international efforts. More information about the pioneers' countries' cases is available at the ‘Forest Inventories Data’ collection, under the FAM.[6]31,[7]32

This component will continue to strengthen the institutional arrangements for NFMS, using the FAO-Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring[8]33 (VGNFM) as the main guiding instrument, and the NFMS Assessment Tool[9]34 developed and tested under CBIT-Forest (2020-22). The new project will promote knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation at the regional level with national forest data stakeholders, and promote existing forest-related platforms, resources, and tools to support national transparency reporting.

Based on the experience gained under the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) with the NFI LAC network[10]35 it was observed that it would be necessary to incorporate a technical critical mass that supports and strengthens forest data collection, analysis and dissemination, including FRA reporting. Therefore, it will be

fundamental to keep strengthening regional forest inventory networks to improve comparability and transparency of forest-related data that will contribute with better inform international policy agendas and reports, and work also with other regions.

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. **Section 9** of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing, and cost on this topic.

Under component 2, countries will benefit at different levels from project activities. At the global level, activities will include massive open online courses (output 2.2). At regional level, the networks (output 2.3) will offer opportunity to exchange with regional partners and partner countries, and at national level, activities will work towards open data (output 2.1).

Expected outcome: Improved National Forest Monitoring Systems through enhanced technical capacity of countries to monitor and report forests, and share knowledge to support the ETF implementation, with attention to gender.

Indicators of success: Number of countries benefiting from data sharing, capacity-building and knowledge exchange activities (target: At least 20)

The Workplan in Annex H provides details on the planned activities and timing for delivering quality products and results.

This component proposes the following **outputs**:

Output 2.1 Forest data sharing enhanced through their publication in an open and digital platform.

The new project will continue to raise awareness and promote the importance of open and transparent data sharing. Improved data availability combined with transparency can catalyze more collaborative solutions to the climate crisis. In addition, frequent and integrated forest data is equally beneficial as it is likely to enhance public engagement and collaboration on relevant solutions for forests. It is expected that more countries will be able to share their data and use the advances of the FAM platform.

An initial consultation of FAO country offices indicates that at least Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh in Asia and Liberia and Gambia in Africa are countries with completed national forest inventories and can apply for this output. In 2023, Ethiopia was also consulted due to their interest in the FAM platform. On 19-20 October 2022 countries from the Latin America and Caribbean region were informed during a regional workshop about the FAM platform and feedback requested on their interest. In 2023, Mexico and Costa Rica were consulted and positive feedback was obtained. During the inception phase of this project, confirmation will be collected from countries.

As done for the implementation of CBIT-Forest (2020-2022), this project will ensure close collaboration with the institution(s) collecting and sharing forest-related data to address the barrier identified by the 2021 UNFCCC survey report ‘Coordination across sectors or institutions to collect and share data’.

This output will provide follow up to the recommendations from the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) final evaluation “*The FAO Forest Division should continue promoting and supporting countries to share their meta and micro NFI data in the FAO FAM platform, linked to national efforts to develop open data sharing systems, by going after “low hanging fruit” countries, which would set an example and possibly stimulate other countries to follow”*

The activities for this specific output are 2.1.1 Raise awareness of the importance of open and transparent forest data; 2.1.2 Identify pilot countries and define workflow for field data sharing and 2.1.3 Implement activities related to open and transparent field data.

Output 2.2 Enhanced technical capacity of forest and climate stakeholders on available platforms, resources and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis to support transparency reporting (e.g., Open Foris)

FAO has been developing free open-source solutions (tools and platforms) to support countries on data collection, dissemination, and analysis, among them, the suit of Open Foris Tools. Also, online resources such as the NFI eLearning modules (bit.ly/NFIonline), developed under CBIT-Forest (2020-22). These modules are free available resources related to data collection, analysis, and dissemination and reporting of an NFI.

Open Foris is a set of free and open-source software tools that facilitates flexible and efficient data collection, analysis and reporting with more than 30,000 users in 180 countries. The tools available are Arena, Collect, Collect Mobile, Calc, Collect Earth, Earth Map and SEPAL. Recently, countries have been using the tools in different contexts; for example, Collect Earth in Africa has supported an initiative, first-of-its-kind, to collect accurate, comprehensive, and harmonized land use and land use change data (FAO, 2022). It was also used for the FRA remote sensing survey at the global scale.

This output will facilitate the dissemination and promote the use of those existing valuable resources to support data collection and analysis of forest-related data. An **expert-facilitated online course** will be implemented with digital badge certification based on NFI eLearning modules. So far, the use of massive open online courses (MOOCs) as a modality to deliver capacity-building has been highly relevant and responsive, being more inclusive and contributing to **women's participation**. This activity will be supported by the FAO eLearning Academy. As part of the activity, this new project will encourage participants to use/learn about forests and transparency by taking the already existing self-paced eLearning course on 'Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement.' The new project will follow the experience gained from the "Sharing the Experience of the multilingual MOOC on Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement' course.[31] MOOCs will allow a wider stakeholder engagement in terms of inclusivity and the number of people engaged.

The **new** project will identify the best way to share knowledge products on forests and transparency with digital badge certification (e.g., eLearning self-paced course, MOOC). Communication with already existing platforms and/or networks of students (e.g., IFSA) and academia will be used to ensure uptake and sustainability. The **new** project will also ensure a **multilingual approach** to ensure higher engagement of experts and practitioners.

This output will follow up to the recommendations from the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) final evaluation "*FAO should continue to systematically, and with a long-term perspective, develop and disseminate innovative tools and technologies for open, transparent, reliable, and harmonized forest data to educate stakeholders about the importance of open, reliable forest data and provide the tools to strengthen technical capacity to do it for national and international climate and other reporting purposes*".

The activities under this output are: 2.2.1 Update and customize eLearning material on forest-related data and transparency; 2.2.2 Develop and share knowledge products on available tools such as Open Foris with transparency practitioners; 2.2.3 Run digital Capacity-Building activities, integrating gender balance (e.g., MOOC) and 2.2.4 Analyse the uptake of the knowledge products by research institutions and universities.

Output 2.3 Knowledge sharing networks on national forest inventories facilitated and improved at national/regional levels to support forest transparency

The regional NFI networks are a union of leaders, experts, and collaborators in a region aiming to harmonize definitions and criteria on forests measurement. Already existing experiences[11]36 demonstrate the usefulness. Regional NFI networks support the analysis of operational reference definitions for the most critical NFI variables. Therefore, regional estimates could be developed, helping to improve national definitions and estimates and disseminate new developments on NFI sampling techniques and platforms.

NFIs can serve as effective vehicles for providing comprehensive forest-related data for international reporting. The NFI allows a country to estimate GHG emissions and removals associated with forests as it includes field measurements that allow the estimation of forest carbon stocks and changes.

The **new** project will start to facilitate knowledge exchange in the Asia and Pacific region and enhance knowledge exchange with the NFI Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) network. This last network has been formally established during a meeting held in Panama 19-20 October 2022.[12]37 The networks will serve as a platform for technical discussions, knowledge, and lessons learned. Outputs of these networks will also improve the FRA global process and strengthen capacity-building activities under component 1, as well as support countries' climate reporting. The **new** project will ensure that lessons learned from the NFI LAC network activities are shared with the Asia region.

The NFI LAC network will be working with at least **24** countries and territories (Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, French Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the States United States, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela). In the Asia Pacific region, the **new** project aims to involve **14 countries** in the Asia Pacific region (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Thailand, and Viet Nam). Additionally, the **new** project will ensure that also other countries from the region, with NFI work will be invited to participate in the knowledge exchanges with their own financial resources (e.g., Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, and Western Samoa).

For the Asia region, the **new** project has followed recommendations from the 27th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) in 2017 related to the need to promote multipurpose national forest inventories and south-south collaboration for knowledge and technology transfer as well as the 28th APFC (2019) which reinforced and recommended to support countries to effectively plan, implement and monitor forestry-related mitigation and adaptation activities consistent with their national strategies and approaches. During the regional knowledge exchange workshop on forest monitoring and assessment in South and South-East Asia in 2018 [13]38, 14 country participants agreed on the need to focus on strengthening multi-source and multi-purpose forest monitoring systems to improve the consideration of the results from forest monitoring.

This output will advocate and raise awareness of the importance of coordination for data collection and sharing aiming to address the barrier identified by the 2021 UNFCCC survey report 'Coordination across sectors or institutions to collect and share data'.

This output is in line with the COFO26 member countries' request[14]39: "continue harmonization of methods and definitions for forest data collection, including for primary forests and other forest

characteristics, and promote the establishment of regional networks on National Forest Inventory as a vehicle to strengthen south-south cooperation, data sharing and reinforcing FRA capacity development initiatives."

The activities included in this output are: 2.3.1 Facilitate a national forest inventory (NFI) network in Asia, 2.3.2 Enhance knowledge sharing and south-south collaboration within the NFI LAC network, 2.3.3 Monitor participation of men and women in the knowledge sharing events.

Component 3: Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency.

Component 3 will contribute with three CBIT programming directions: i) 'development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency' (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21b**), ii) 'exchange of transparency practitioners and experts, planners, and implementers' (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21e**) and iii) 'contributions to knowledge management on transparency-related initiatives' (**GEF Programming Directions par. 21i**).

This component will focus on the identified barriers of insufficient systematization of free and easily available knowledge material for transparency practitioners and reducing the means of communication and outreach activities of the project.

FAO has gained knowledge through all their projects and programmes related to measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), including REDD+. Therefore, by engaging in this continuous capitalization process, FAO is strengthening its capacities for better results and impact.

A **comprehensive outreach and knowledge management** (KM) strategy and action plan will be developed to capture and disseminate project-related knowledge products and activities to facilitate **transparency enhancements**. Based on outreach and KM monitoring efforts and results, the strategy will be periodically revised to ensure effective scaling up of dissemination opportunities. Knowledge and communications products will be developed to share key messages, experiences, and/or tools. Different modalities will be used to reach out to various target audiences of the project, where appropriate, including products in multiple languages. The **new** project will consider digital communication platforms and strategies, including the launch of engaging social media campaigns, contributing/building communities on platforms (e.g., Facebook or LinkedIn) and harness the power of mass media. The **new** project will also ensure a multilingual approach to ensure higher uptake from experts and practitioners.

This component will follow up on recommendations from the FAO CBIT-Forest final evaluation, that suggested: "*Develop and implement a systematic approach to maintain, or even improve, inclusive access to the CBIT produced training and awareness material and technical outputs worldwide, using all possible channels, including FAO's Forest Division and corporate platforms and external networks and platforms, as part of the project exit strategy."*

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. **Section 9** of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing and cost on this topic.

Expected outcome: Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency

Indicators of success: Total number of practitioners' accessing knowledge products (Target: 2000)

The Workplan in Annex H provides details on the planned activities and timing for delivering quality products and results.

This component proposes the following **outputs**:

Output 3.1 New set of knowledge products on successful forest data transparency developed and disseminated:

This output will focus on compiling and improving KM products produced under CBIT-Forest (2020-22). Based on lessons learned, the **new** project will also identify a new set of knowledge products through a consultative and inclusive approach that will engage key stakeholders at global, regional, and country levels.

Some of the products will be adapted and/or translated to different UN languages to encourage access to forest transparency knowledge products.

Activities under the output are: 3.1.1 Identify the most appropriate KM product to raise awareness; 3.1.2 Develop and/or adapt knowledge products and 3.1.3 Share knowledge products.

Output 3.2 Project communication and outreach strategy designed and implemented:

Day-to-day activity is related to communication and outreach of the project; this output will focus on developing a comprehensive outreach and KM strategy and action plan that will facilitate ***transparency enhancements***. The **new** project will apply a range of methods and tools and engaging partners both in the development and implementation of communication and outreach activities (e.g., interactive webinars, live interviews etc.). The avenues that will be used to disseminate project results will be multiple and tailored to different audiences, ranging from a more technical to a more blended target audience.

The **new** project will share knowledge and disseminate news and resources in the already existing FAO's in action web page named '***Boosting transparency of forest data***': https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/. This web page was created under the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) project, and it has been maintained by the NFM team. The project will also benefit from other FAO's FRA,[15]40 NFM,[16]41 GEF[17]42 and ETF[18]43 web pages. The FAO's Climate Change Knowledge Hub is already sharing forest-transparency resources,[19]44 this **new** project will also benefit from the knowledge hub.

The **new** project will also benefit of a dedicated project/agency profile in the new CBIT-GSP platform, where knowledge resources and activities will be shared with the CBIT family worldwide. Furthermore, the new project will benefit from the global/ regional events of knowledge sharing that the CBIT-GSP platform will organized in the coming years.

For social media, the project will benefit from corporate, regional, and country-level networks from FAO (Facebook, LinkedIn, tweet etc.), including external partners (e.g., UNFCCC, ICAT etc.). The **new** project will also benefit already existing social media for Open Foris (Twitter:

https://twitter.com/openforis/; Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OpenForis and LinkedIn https://www.linkedin.com/company/open-foris/). FAO's D-groups will also be a way to disseminate project activities and resources through the following groups: Transparency in Agriculture and Land Use sectors discussion group; Agriculture sectors and climate change; FAO Technical network on Climate Change; Forest and Landscape restoration; and the REDD+ and forests governance.

A key and strategic player in communication and outreach is the involvement of the UNFCCC. This **new** project will continue to collaborate on transparency-related activities, benefiting from already existing social media channels, such as the 'Mitigation and Transparency Exchange' (Facebook), 'UN Climate Change Transparency' and UN Climate Change Capacity-building' (LinkedIn). The **new** project will also explore the use of the new hub from the UNFCCC/Paris agreement **Action for Climate Empowerment**[20][45] (ACE), which includes also focal points in all countries, to disseminate knowledge products and activities.

Activities of the project in this output are 3.2.1 Develop an overall KM, communication & outreach strategy for the project; 3.2.2 Maintain communication and outreach kit tool (Trello Board), 3.2.3 Implement the KM, communication & outreach strategy, and 3.2.4 Develop and disseminate knowledge products that are gender responsive.

Output 3.3 Project results successfully monitored and reported:

This output deals with the regular monitoring and reporting of the project.

Activities under this output are 3.3.1. Technical overview of the project activities and liaise with stakeholders; 3.3.2 Establish gender-equitable project steering committee; 3.3.3. Prepare, present and communicate progress reports of the project; 3.3.4. Communicate and disseminate project achievements to the general public; 3.3.5. Complete independent final evaluation and 3.3.6. Project closure.

Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

This **new** project is aligned with GEF8 Programming Direction.[21][46] It will contribute with GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area- Pillar II: objective 2.1. *Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT.*

This **new** project is aligned with the GEF CBIT Programming Directions.[22][47]As per paragraph 85 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, CBIT aims: i) to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; ii) to provide relevant tools, training and

assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and iii) to assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

The project components 1, 2 and 3 are aligned with the activities stipulated in the Programming Directions for the CBIT, paragraph 21, specifically, as follows:

- 21(b): Development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency, and building capacity, building on existing best practice materials, sharing of tools, methodologies, and data, and technical consultations on lessons learned from on-going/existing assessments (Component 1, 2, 3);
- 21(d): Regional and global capacity building programs to enhance transparency, such as institutional and policy measures, tools, methodologies, and data, tracking progress and enhancements (Component 1, 2);
- 21(e): Exchange of transparency practitioners and experts, planners and implementers: south-south and north-south exchange of experiences and lessons learned (Component 2, 3);
- 21(g): Collaboration with UNFCCC bodies on transparency and capacity building (Component 2);
- 21(h): Collaboration with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including Taskforce on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and other initiatives supporting UNFCCC processes (Component 2); and
- 21(i): Contributions to knowledge management on transparency-related initiatives (Component 3).

Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

This **new** project aims to accelerate capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising that can maintain and expand support for developing countries to collect, analyse and disseminate forest-related data to better monitor forests and to ensure they can successfully respond to the ETF and track implementation of their NDCs. In the absence of CBIT funding, the significant contributions of the ETF framework outlined in this proposal will not be realized, and the potential of the forest sector to make a significant contribution to the Paris Agreement will be hindered. Furthermore, countries will not be able to collect and analyse data, plan and take decisions that will be appropriate according to the enhanced transparency requirements.

This **new** project will provide added value as described in this section and will continue to make effective use of ongoing work implemented by FAO through the FRA and NFM teams and build on already existing

platforms and networks. The **new** project will also ensure the adoption of adopting recommendations and implement lessons learned provided in the final evaluation of CBIT-Forest (2020-22). [23]48

A well-established NFMS is key to providing robust and consistent forest-related data to assess and report forest-related emissions and removals, and for tracking progress towards achieving a country's NDC. The NFMS should increase transparency; reliability of the information produced and ensure a long-term perspective, through participatory processes that include multiple stakeholders with different skills.

Open and transparent forest data is fundamental for the establishment of robust national reporting processes. It can serve to build trust, demonstrating that all countries can indeed contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the global stocktake process. This **new** project will continue to enhance the capacity of the forest sector in relation to data collection, analysis and dissemination, therefore, contributing to ensure robust forest-related GHG emissions and removals estimates over time. In addition, this **new** project will increase transparency, along with comparable and consistent forest data among countries by i) improving FRA online platform, with new functionalities including geospatial tools to report forest-related data, ii) engaging FAO's FRA-NC global network (=186 countries and territories) and the already existing National Focal Points from the UNFCCC[24]49 to raise awareness of the ETF, and iii) sharing knowledge of forest monitoring related resources that support data transparency. The components of this **new** project will ensure consistency of capacity-building activities at the global, regional, and national levels which will enhance forest monitoring and reporting.

This **new** project will build on and ensure knowledge-sharing with relevant transparency-related initiatives, including **coordination** with the two global CBIT projects: i) Global capacity-building towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector (CBIT-AFOLU) - second phase; ii) Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement with GEF ID: 10088 (CBIT-GSP platform). The two global FAO CBIT projects target different audiences and has developed so far different tools/knowledge products. These two projects are interconnected and there is no duplication or overlap due to the different focuses. CBIT-AFOLU emphasis is on ETF-related reporting, including related awareness raising and guidelines, GHG monitoring and reporting. This **new** project looks at the transparency of forest data and ETF requirements and will have a strategic focus on forest monitoring at global and regional/national levels and make use of already existing resources and networks related to forest monitoring. The two global projects will have many synergies resulting from their specific focuses. Most importantly: Improved quality of forest-related data (CBIT-Forest) will help countries use them to inform the GHG reporting and the NDC tracking (CBIT-AFOLU+); Tools and methods, such as Open Foris and LoGIc, serve both forestry and the overall land use and land-use change needs; Joint outreach within the Forestry and Transparency communities will allow reaching a larger audience; The capacity development material developed in CBIT-AFOLU will help CBIT-Forest to inform forest inventory and monitoring specialist on the specific needs of the AFOLU sector's GHG inventories and reporting.

This new project will accelerate and contribute to enhanced quality, timeliness, accessibility and usability of forest-related data for improved global and national reporting efforts under the ETF, guided by Decision 18/CMA.1 on the MPG, while involving a series of key stakeholders at global and national levels. The project is also a direct response to the most serious challenge developing countries are facing in their

national UNFCCC report preparation process - data collection and quality of data. The new project is responding to identified barriers to enhanced transparency, which includes:
• Documented MRV/ETF gaps and needs related to data collection and quality of data, highlighted by a recent 2021 UNFCCC survey.
• As forests are often located in remote areas, collecting and updating forest information can become logistically challenging and expensive.
• Linking global-regional-country capacity-building efforts and/or activities for improved data and data availability to advance reporting.

The second phase of CBIT-AFOLU will enhance country knowledge and capacity on the ETF and the MPGs to ensure a smooth transition from the Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) by December 2024. The project will work closely with all stakeholders engaged with the preparation of the BTR, including data providers, academia and youth. it will focus on reinforcing the institutional arrangements to ensure a systemic country-driven process. It will cover the AFOLU sector, and the non-AFOLU sectors, as needed

More details of synergies between the FAO global projects is provided also in section '6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives'.

In addition, this new project also has an added value with respect to FRA regular activities. The FRA- NC network and data are leveraged to make updated, reliable and accessible data available for the ETF by:
• Establishing a mechanism for flexible FRA reporting, which allows annual updates of national reports for reporting progress towards the NDCs, restoration commitments, GFG and SDGs
• Providing FRA National Correspondents and their collaborators in 236 countries and territories access to latest available remote sensing data and geospatial products to support reporting on forests and their dynamics
• Increasing the awareness of the FRA National Correspondents and their collaborators on the ETF through provision and promotion of related capacity development materials
• Establishing open communication and information exchange channels between FRA National Correspondents and UNFCCC national focal points in the countries to ensure consistent use of best available data.

The project will also cover the cost of project monitoring, reporting and evaluation, which is allocated in the 3 components of the project.

Component 1: Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements.

Baseline and co-financing: The FAO's FRA team is leading the FRA 2025 reporting and subsequent processes at the global level; therefore, the baseline is the grant from the FAO-FRA. The FAO-FRA total contribution is of USD 3,000,000 as grant over the full duration of the project.

GEF support and financing: The FAO-GEF project will provide support to upgrade the already existing FRA reporting and dissemination platform, including knowledge sharing activities. The GEF grant is of US$ 648,092

Component 2: Enhanced technical capacity and knowledge sharing of governmental counterparts on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the transparency framework

Baseline and co-financing: As the FAO's NFM team is supporting countries on enhancing their NFMS. The FAO-NFM total contribution is of USD US$ 2,176,416.
GEF support and financing: The FAO-GEF project will cover the cost of activities that will support open and transparent forest data activities, sharking knowledge of forest monitoring linked to transparency and enhancing knowledge sharing through regional networks. The GEF grant is of US$ 673,838

Component 3: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Baseline and co-financing: As the FAO's NFM team is supporting countries on enhancing their NFMS. The FAO-NFM total contribution is of USD US$ 81,774.
GEF support and financing: The FAO-GEF project will focus on new knowledge products and the implementation of a comprehensive knowledge management, communication and outreach strategy that will be disseminated through already existing channels, such as the CBIT-GSP platform (baseline). The GEF grant is of US$ 492,194.

Global environmental benefits (GEF TF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The **new** project will contribute to the strengthening of transparency, comparability, and consistency in the collection of high-integrity forest data. Through outcomes and outputs designed to ensure a coordinated effort for global and regional/national forest-related initiatives, beneficiaries will be better suited to respond to the transparency requirements, as well as to better track NDCs. Improving data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data will support countries' reporting processes to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Parties under the ETF are required to submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR) and national inventory report, by 31 December 2024. The least developed countries and small island developing states may submit the information referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement at their discretion. BTRs will be considered, at the collective level, as an important input into the **global stocktake**, which assesses the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.

Increased open and transparent forest data will contribute to the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement, while building trust and confidence on the reports in the progress. Accurate and consistent forest-related data will contribute to the preparation of national GHG inventories and the consistent reporting of the biennial update reports (BUR), national communications (NC) and REDD+ Technical Annex to the BUR, including the BTR under the Transparency Framework guided by the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs).

Evidence suggests this project will directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 15 "Life on Land" which aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, specifically:

- SDG Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area; and
- SDG Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management.

The project will also contribute to the following SDGs:

- Goal 5 "Gender Equality" because the project has a gender-responsive approach in the implementation of its activities; and
- Goal 13 "Climate Action" since the project contributes to the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development

Innovation

An **open global platform on forest-data** with **geospatial** features. CBIT-Forest (2020-22) supported the development of the innovative FRA reporting and dissemination platform[25][50] and has started to populate "forest inventory data" collection in close collaboration with the pilot countries in the Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) catalogue[26][51]. Based on FRA users survey[27][52] worldwide efforts towards data sharing and accessibility should continue. The proposal would constitute a major leap towards more transparent reporting on forest resources via further enhancement of digital reporting and dissemination tools, allowing more frequent voluntary updates of key indicators, development of a novel easy-to-use interface for the FRA-NC and their collaborators to access and use the latest satellite remote sensing data and products and share their national maps and other geospatial data, and enhancement of networking and information exchange among focal points of various forest-related reporting processes.

Raised awareness among governmental counterparts and transparency practitioners of available platforms and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis (e.g. Open Foris), and support critical in country institutional arrangements, and data sharing agreements for National Forest Monitoring Systems that ensure sustainable reporting of forest-related data. FAO has recently become a member of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA). This underscores FAO's commitment to the development and championing of digital public goods that will help achieve sustainable agrifood systems and contribute to the SDGs. FAO will promote the use and adoption of digital technologies. The DPGA registry already includes four FAO digital public goods: the Hand-in-Hand Geospatial Platform, the FAO Digital Services Portfolio, the Water Productivity Open Access Database WAPOR, and Open Foris.

Virtual Capacity-Building approach to support transparency of forest-related data. Delivery of blended and facilitated multilingual e-learning will be explored. Strengths and weaknesses will be analyzed and composite approaches to this new project will be identified. Academia and research institutions will be engaged as key partners to ensure sustainability.

The **new** project explores further interlinkages at global and regional/national levels related to forest monitoring that will contribute to improving reporting toward more accurate and transparent forest data and information. Still in many countries global and national processes are not connected, hence the use of FAO's network and the focus on institutional arrangements will bring an innovative approach to tackle consistency in forest-related data reporting. Post-pandemic implementation will encourage innovative ways to delivery as well as the use of innovative platforms to share knowledge and raise awareness. The **new** project will consistently work on both technical and institutional aspects, while facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders and using already existing networks to share knowledge.

Sustainability

Diverse activities related to raising awareness, capacity development and knowledge sharing among transparency-related practitioners, targeting FRA and NFM on going work/activities will ensure sustainability. FAO's FRA process is implemented every 5 years. Therefore, through the engagement of the FRA-NC network and key stakeholders at the national level, sustainability will be safeguarded. The implementation of this **new** project will run in parallel with FRA2025 process. The FRA reporting and dissemination platform, with new geospatial tools, has its value in increasing sustainability overall through the provision of global forest data. This **new** project will ensure that the outcomes are incorporated in regular communication and follow-up processes under FRA 2025 and beyond.

FAO in the field of forest data and statistics have established partnerships for on-going and/or already existing global and country support, including among different stakeholders such as research institutes and local universities. Therefore, this **new** project will benefit from those partnerships, which will contribute to institutionalize capacity building. In addition, this project will analyse the best way for the uptake of the knowledge products by research institutions and universities.

The FAO's eLearning Academy provides learning opportunities and multilingual eLearning courses for professionals working in food and nutrition security, social and economic development, and sustainable management of natural resources, with the overall goal of strengthening the capacity of member countries. All knowledge products and events will be available on the corporate FAO eLearning Academy web page, under 'Courses' and 'Webinars' (https://elearning.fao.org/).

FAO's corporate climate change knowledge hub will contribute to archiving and sharing knowledge resources related to forests and transparency. A dedicated collection is available on forests and transparency: http://clh-ckan.apps.fao.org/en/dataset/building-global-capacity-to-increase-transparency-in-the-forest-sector

Potential for scaling up

This **new** project has a lot of potential to scale up activities both at global and national levels building on the innovative and easy-to-use geospatial tools for accessing and sharing remote sensing data and products integrated to the FRA platform-reporting module.

The global knowledge material, including NFI eLearning modules and self-paced modules, can be integrated for example, into university curricula or be further develop targeting specific regional needs. Already existing research and science networks will help scale up knowledge sharing and awareness raising of the importance of open and transparent forest data.

Enhancing data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data will contribute with FRA 2025 process and beyond. FRA data contributes to the assessment of national forest monitoring and reporting capacities, and updates related to global GHG emission and removal estimates for forests.

The free and expert-facilitated MOOC will create a critical mass in a series of countries and will directly contribute to increase countries' capacities to collect, analyse and disseminate forest-related data, therefore, climate reporting should improve over time. The **new** project aims to increase the use of open and free of charge tools and platform available to improve countries forest monitoring capacities.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is a key to sustainable results at the country level and ensures that FAO's efforts lead to lasting changes. A country reaches its development goals only by strengthening its individuals and organizations while creating an enabling policy environment. This project will promote cross-sectoral dialogue and improve the **technical** and **functional** capacities, and will adhere to **FAO's corporate capacity development strategy** and framework (http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/it/). The new project will use capacity development practical tools that will help design, implement interventions, and ensure their sustainability.[28]53 Elements of sustainability to be considered should be at least the institutionalization of results and processes, national ownership, and partnerships at local, national, and regional levels.[29]54

Capacity development activities at global and regional/national levels will be undertaken in partnership with already existing global and regional/national partners to guarantee the sustainability of the interventions. There are several countries and institutions with adequate **technical** capacity to ensure effective participation in the project and its implementation, however, most of the time **functional** capacities, such as knowledge, partnering or implementing, are lacking. The new project will always implement activities considering both technical and functional capacities. In addition, following FAO's capacity development approach, the **new** project will address at least two levels: **individual** (e.g., implementing digital Capacity-Building activities) and **organizational** (e.g., facilitating knowledge sharing and south-south collaboration of networks).

All the components of this **new** project will also ensure that **FAO's South-South Cooperation Strategy**[43] are taken into consideration when implementing activities (e.g., sub/regional national forest inventory networks).

Following recommendations from the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) final evaluation: "*Map and pursue opportunities to expand eLearning and the use of digital badge certificates, working in collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy, in all work related to forest data and transparency, and other forestry/AFOLU fields where FAO has a comparative advantage and demand for its* ***capacity development services.”*** This **new** project will continue to collaborate with the FAO eLearning Academy which has 15 years of consolidated experience in instructional design models and learning theories, including work practices, standards and quality criteria adopted for the delivery of learning programmes and self-paced e-learning courses in development contexts. More recently, it has worked on new topics such as mobile learning and microlearning, digital badges, MOOCs, and webinars, among others.[30]55 Experiences and lessons learned related to virtual capacity-building activities on forest transparency are documented [31]56 and highlighted in the final evaluation of the CBIT-Forest (2020-22):

> *Lessons learned 3: The extensive use of collaborative and self-learning online training, using the FAO eLearning Academy, combined with the adoption of the digital badge certificate to demonstrate competence, have proven to be a success worth wider consideration and further adoption in FAO* ***capacity development*** *work.*

> *Lessons learned 4: The use of several languages – in the case of this project up to six – in the development of online training modules, forest data platforms and awareness enhancement materials, can greatly enhance the reach and impact of FAO's* ***capacity development*** *work.*

The final evaluation of CBIT-Forest (2020-22) find out that MOOCs and regional technical webinars were highly relevant and responsive to the identified organizational and technical **capacity development** needs and concrete work priorities contributing positively to the ETF preparations. It also concluded:" *how virtual self-learning and hybrid collaborative approaches to training can effectively complement "traditional"* **capacity development** *approaches, and when combined with making materials available in several languages, achieve a much higher number of people trained and provide a more equal and cost-effective approach to capacity development."* This **new** project, in collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy, will ensure acquisition of individual competences from participants, through the expert-facilitated MOOC, which will include a **digital badge certification**. This certification verifies that participants have achieved the learning outcomes and competencies outlined in the e-learning courses.

By the end of 2021, six FAO Virtual Learning Centers[32]57 (VLCs) were established in all five FAO regions. VLCs have been conceived to improve **regional** delivery of online training and to transfer competences required to organize and deliver online training to FAO regional and sub-regional offices. This approach aims to ensure courses offered are in line with the training needs of the countries in the

target regions and re well-tailored to the local languages and contexts. This **new** project will explore collaboration with these hubs to ensure dissemination of the training activities.

Results from the **new** project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention areas through existing information sharing networks and forums, including GFOI, Commission on Forestry, COFO; Regional Forestry Commission in all regions etc. On October 2022, the FAO shared[33]58 during the 26th COFO session, all transparency-related activities, and resources from CBIT-Forest (2020-22). The **new** project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The final evaluation of CBIT-Forest (2020-22) finds to be effective the use of ongoing work and existing internal and external platforms and networks.

Knowledge material and communication products will form a key method of disseminating the project's results and achievements in multiple languages.

Alignment with GEF's policy requirements

Stakeholders

Civil society will be aware of all project activities. Knowledge products and virtual capacity-building and knowledge activities are of the project are open to all. Dissemination channels, including social media, both FAO and non-FAO, reach out also to civil society.

Project stakeholders and their role

This **new** project will build on the experience and lessons learnt from CBIT-Forest (2020-22) and continue with a consultative approach that will be systematically and inclusive to engage with key stakeholders at global and regional/country levels, also connecting to already existing networks and platforms (e.g., PCCB, GFOI, UNFCCC, CBIT-GSP platform etc.).

The **new** project will make use of e-learning based training approach (for example, the massive open online courses, MOOCs) and developing material in multiple languages to promote wider ***stakeholder engagement*** in terms of inclusivity and the number of people engaged, which will contribute with women's participation.

As described in previous sections, regular information sharing and consultations with countries are done through COFO or regional forestry commissions (see section 2- *Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects*) as well as the use of surveys that has helped the **new** project to prepare this project document.

A stakeholder mapping was done for this **new** project which has also helped to engage and inform stakeholders as well as to learn about concerns and expectations. A complete **stakeholder engagement matrix** is available in Annex I2. Here below, we provide a description of key stakeholders and their roles and participation in the project:

Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO): FAO is the GEF agency for the project and is the main **Executing Partner**. FAO will nominate two different officers, one as Budget holder (BH), who is accountable for managing to achieve project results and proper use of resources, and to ensure timely submission of reporting, as per the Funding Agreement, including project closure; the second officer will serve as the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), overseeing implementation and ensuring the smooth flow of technical expertise and backstopping**.** The project coordinator will provide oversight to project activities and coordinate the new project activities between the FRA and NFM teams from the Forestry Division of the FAO. FAO will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy; FAO is responsible for managing the GEF component of the Project and ensuring adherence to GEF and FAO policies and procedures and ensuring the Project meets its objectives and delivers expected outcomes and outputs as established in the Project Document, Work Plan and budget in an efficient and effective manner. Throughout July-September 2022 online consultations with FAO regional and country offices as well as technical experts in HQ took place. In October 2022, a validation workshop of the logical framework was done with the FRA and NFM teams.

Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established, chaired by the Budget Holder (FAO's Team Leader of the National Forest Monitoring team), co-chaired by the Lead Technical Officer (FAO's FRA team leader), and comprised of a representative from the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Leads Group,[5] a representative from the UNFCCC and a representative from a research institution/university. The project coordinator will be the Secretary to the PSC. The members of the PSC will assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in the global and/or international context.

The **Global Environment Facility** (GEF) secretariat granted the funding to implement the project activities. It will have a strategic role in the dissemination and sharing of knowledge products of this project as well as participating as guess speakers in the knowledge sharing events. The new project will identify strategic UN days that will help, together with communication and outreach colleagues from GEF SEC, to disseminate to a wider audience (e.g., UN Day Forests on 21 March, UN Day on Statistics on 20 October).

The **FAO global network of National Correspondents for the Global Forest Resources Assessment** [28](FRA) involves a close involvement of countries through this network of around 187 countries and territories (as for FRA 2020). The FRA 2025 process has encouraged the nomination of qualified women FRA-NC aiming to increase gender participation with respect to FRA 2020 (17%). A few years ago, the FRA-NC was engaged in a global survey aiming to inform and get feedback from project activities. More recently, in 2020 and 2021 e-surveys have also considered FRA-NC feedback related to the FRA reporting and dissemination platform. In addition, under CBIT-Forest (2020-22), FRA-NC were involved in the 3 editions of the MOOC on forests and transparency. This new project will continue to engage and share knowledge with FRA-NC with attention to the needs and gaps identified in the different surveys and consultations. In September 2022, an online Expert Consultation on "Global Forest Resources Assessment: Towards FRA2025" took place.

Secretariat of the **United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change** (UNFCCC) has been involved in the project activities since its initial conception. The UNFCCC will be part of the PSC of this new project. A virtual call was held on September 2022 to share the experience and lessons learned from CBIT-Forest (2022-20) and discuss future collaboration as well as knowledge sharing activities that disseminated knowledge products (e.g., COP side events, Climate Change weeks in different regions). This **new** project will ensure that the UNFCCC is informed and involved in virtual capacity-building activities (e.g., MOOC) and knowledge sharing events. This new project will use different social media channels from the UNFCCC to disseminate knowledge and events through the different channels: Mitigation and transparency exchange (Facebook), UN Climate Change Transparency and UN Climate Change Capacity-building (LinkedIn). This new project will keep contributing to the Universal Participation in the ETF. The momentum engages and unites countries, support organizations, the business community, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders who share a common interest in realizing the benefits of participating in the ETF of the Paris Agreement. The project will participate to virtual *informal* global and regional meetings of the Group of Friends on MRV/transparency framework for developing countries.[14]

The **Paris Committee on Capacity-building** (PCCB) network[34][59] (305 members; 80 countries) shared knowledge and activities generated under the CBIT-Forest (2020-22). This **new** project will keep contributing to the PCCB. All events/activities, news and products will be disseminated through the PCCB newsletters. There is already frequent contact and collaboration with the PCCB B network. A recent contribution from the FAO has been the delivery of a side event during COP 27 on Implementing Articles 6 & 13 of the Paris Agreement Day for the 4th Capacity-building Hub. The **new** project will keep contributing and attending to the PCCB network events.

The **FAO's eLearning Academy**[17] provides learning opportunities and multilingual eLearning courses for professionals working in food and nutrition security, social and economic development, and sustainable management of natural resources, with the overall goal of strengthening the capacity of member countries. The project has worked hand-in-hand and established a strategic alliance with the FAO eLearning Academy to deliver in 6 UN languages the self-paced course, 3 editions of the MOOC, 6 global webinars and the launch of the open-access version named 'Sharing the Experience of the multilingual MOOC on Forests and Transparency under the Paris Agreement'[18]. All material and events are available

in the corporate FAO's web page of the eLearning Academy, under 'Courses' and 'Webinars' (https://elearning.fao.org/). All the knowledge generated is now open and available for all, at anytime and anywhere. The **new** project will continue collaborating with the Academy and explore the feasibility to work with the **FAO Virtual Learning Centres** https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/.

Global Forest Observations Initiative[23] (GFOI) is an informal partnership to help coordinate international support to developing countries on forest monitoring and greenhouse gas accounting for REDD+ and related activities was involved and informed in all steps of the project. GFOI is guided by a Leads Group functions as a quasi-board for the Initiative. They consult frequently with one another and make decisions by consensus. The Leads Group currently comprises representatives from the governments of Australia, Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States as well as the international Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the European Space Agency (ESA), the FAO and the World Bank. This **new** project will continue its collaboration with GFOI and identify key activities to work in synergies, including knowledge sharing and dissemination activities.

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) is a transparency-related initiative. Currently, FAO has direct involvement with ICAT in transparency-related activities. In 2020, FAO participated in a larger campaign related to data for better climate action with a total of 14 partners participating. Forest data transparency for climate action was one of the success stories of this campaign.[35]60 FAO has also participated in the Partner Forum meetings. During the last forum held in 2022, the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) project was invited to share experience and lessons learned on forests and transparency. The **new** project will continue collaborating with ICAT, as well as sharing knowledge product and events for the benefit of transparency-practitioners.

A network of **National Focal Points**[36]61 **(NFP)** for activities pertaining to the UNFCCC. The NFPs a) receive copies of notification, documents, and information, and distribute them to other concerned partners at the national level; b) liaise with the Convention secretariat on the preparation of national communication and provide information regarding activities related to the Convention at the national level as well as the needs for financial and technical support to enable such activities; and c) accept, approve or endorse activities implemented jointly and report on them to the COP through the secretariat. Under CBIT-Forest (2020-22), the NFPs were involved in the 3 editions of the MOOC on forests and transparency. This **new** project will continue to make use of this network to reach out national stakeholders' world-wide.

International Forestry Students' Association[26] (IFSA) is a globally organised and locally operating student's organisation. IFSA has been involved in the implementation of the CBIT-Forest (2020-22), through dedicated slots reserved to participate in the different editions of the MOOCs and invitations to participate in the global webinars. The **new** project has contacted new IFSA representatives elected in 2022 to inform them

about the project and learn their interest to participate as well as disseminate knowledge products related to forest transparency.

The **Latin American and the Caribbean national forest inventory** network (more than 21 participating countries) aims to combine their efforts to compile, review and illustrate their experiences implementing NFIs, as well as identify common points and differences in the definitions, designs, methods, and estimation protocols applied in LAC countries. On 19 October 2022, a face-to-face workshop was held in Panama with the LAC NFI network took place (https://youtu.be/fPuS8YjzxII). Countries were informed and consulted about the work on open data and next steps on the network activities. This **new** project will take stock of the lessons learned from this network and continue to facilitate knowledge exchange. This network has already created a dedicated D-Group which is used for communicating with countries (https://dgroups.org/fao/nfi-lac).

Global CBIT projects This new project will collaborate and coordinate with the two global CBIT projects, through already existing formal and informal mechanisms, such as the: a) Global capacity-building towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector[19] (CBIT-AFOLU) led by FAO (GEF ID: 9864) which ended but a second phase is under consideration; and the Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, CBIT-GSP platform (GEF ID: 10088) led by **UNEP** which has is now under implementation. In July 2022, an online consultation took place between the CBIT-GSP team and FAO, including other partners. This **new** project will continue sharing knowledge and disseminating material through the CBIT-GSP platform. Regular communication with CBIT-GSP platform team will take place to ensure that FAO and non-FAO national CBIT projects are well informed about activities and resources available.

The Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) partners[37][62] jointly collect and share forestry data, so the data are collected once and used many times. This both reduces the reporting burden and increases data consistency across organizations through standardized definitions and the timing of data collection. The project will enhance the collaboration with CFRQ partners, to further harmonize and streamline forest-related data collection and reporting processes, while reducing the reporting burden on the countries. The project has been designed using the feedback from CFRQ partners received during FRA 2020 mid-term evaluation and final evaluation questionnaire.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The CBIT-Forest (2020-22) project conducted a gender analysis which is also applicable and valid for this **new** project.

The GAP is a bridge between gender analysis and implementation, and it is a tool to help translate and make visible findings of the gender analysis in program/project implementation and evaluation. The new project has prepared a gender action plan (GAP) which is provided in Annex K.

The CBIT-Forest (2020-22) project did a gender analysis which is also applicable and valid for this **new** project. However, the new project has developed a gender action plan (GAP) which is provided in Annex K. The **new** project will implement a range of actions/activities to adopt a gender-responsive approach to forest monitoring, including integrating gender issues into the training materials; undertaking technical capacity-development activities, which also addressed gender aspects following recommendations from the gender analysis; and promoting and tracking women's participation in all project capacity-building and knowledge sharing activities. Disaggregated sex and age data from beneficiaries will be collected and reported systematically back to stakeholders to raise awareness on the progress made by the project.

Private Sector Engagement

The **new** project will promote stakeholder engagement to strengthen linkages between knowledge generation, capacity development, and measures to meet enhanced transparency requirements. Moreover, it will catalyse innovation and technology transfer for mitigation options, while enhancing private sector investment, taking advantage of FAO partnership agreements with the private sector with companies like Google and Planet.

Following COP 21 (Paris in 2015), Google Maps and FAO signed a partnership agreement. Google Earth Engine agreed to provide free access to FRA-NC to almost all-encompassing satellite/remote sensing imagery and databases and google tools (http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/350761/icode/). FAO FRA and NFM teams have worked with various companies, including Google and NASA SERVIR, to develop jointly tools such as Collect Earth Online (Collect Earth Online).

In the case of PLANET, in September 2019, the FAO partnered with Planet to provide high spatial and temporal resolution satellite imagery to support the national forest monitoring systems of several tropical forested countries (Planet agreement). The imagery from PLANET has been fully integrated with SEPAL, System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing, and Analysis for Land Monitoring (https://sepal.io/).

The **new** project will promote private sector engagement through dissemination and training activities. During the last Global Forest Resources Assessment online dissemination platform user consultation (2021), public administrators were the largest user group, accounting for about 31% of the total users, followed by users from UN agencies and researchers, both with a share of 19%, while students or educators show a share of 14%. Users from commercial companies and private users accounted for 6% and 4% of the total, respectively, while other user groups make up the remaining minor shares. There is an opportunity to improve the private sector percentage.

One example of the engagement of the private sector in the project, thanks to the dissemination of the existing resources, was illustrated during the FRA online dissemination platform user consultation, where a user from a commercial company, which specialized in biomass energy generation, reported how they use the FRA data to study and analyse the changes in North American and European forests. For that purpose, the company finds access to graphic visualizations very useful for their work. More dissemination of the availability and potential use of the information is needed to improve the engagement of the private sector and scaling up it use.

During the CBIT-Forest (2020-22) project, the collaboration with the FAO eLearning Academy for the implementation of the global webinars and the MOOC engaged many partners and stakeholders, including universities, academic institutions and research centres, non-governmental and civil society organizations, multilateral organizations, development agencies and regional organizations, private sector and donors and international networks and global initiatives. In 2020, the achievement report of the Academy (FAO ELearning Academy Report) included product development for the project and was shared with more than 10,000 professionals. Participants from the private sector were involved as audience members in the global events and as learners in the eLearning course and the MOOC. In the MOOC's second edition, some participants worked with forest data and in the Information Technology sector or as climate change advisors for industries and tourism. Statistics show that 4% of the users from the eLearning course came from the **private sector,** while the private sector's participation in global knowledge raising and awareness webinars was between 3-5%, where, this result was thanks to the partner network, which includes the private sector from the FAO eLearning academy. This new project will continue working with a similar modality, which will help inform and engage the private sector on forest transparent and open data.

---

[1] FAO 2020. Results from the FRA 2020 evaluation questionnaire. Global Forest Resource Assessment Programme. Internal Document. Rome, Italy

[2] FAO 2021- Global Forest Resources Assessment on-line dissemination platform User Consultation 2021 Office of Chief Statistician. Internal Document. Rome. Italy.

[3] https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587

[4] Neeff, T. & Piazza, M. 2019. Developing forest monitoring capacity – progress achieved and gaps remaining after ten years. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 101: 88–95. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2018.10.013

[5] FAO. 2018. *Ten years of capacity development on national forest monitoring for REDD+: much achieved yet more to do*. Rome. 24 pp. (also available at http://www.fao.org/3/CA1741EN/ca1741en.pdf).

[6] https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog/Forestry/?page=1&sort_by=popularity&sort_order=desc&ps=15&repo=Forestry

[7] https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8908en

[8] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/3ba84dd8-5ba2-4905-8737-b1636915c988/

[9] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/es/c/cb0988en/

[10] https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7791EN/

[11] European Network of National Forest Inventories (ENFIN), North American Region with the Forest Monitoring and Inventory group, North American Forestry Commission (NAFC).

[12] https://www.miambiente.gob.pa/red-de-inventarios-forestales-nacionales-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-se-reune-en-panama/

[13]https://www.unredd.net/announcements-and-news/2901-the-first-regional-exchange-workshop-on-forest-monitoring-and-assessment-in-bangladesh-persuades-recommendation-for-sustainable-forest-monitoring.html

[14] https://www.fao.org/3/nj908en/nj908en.pdf

[15] https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/initiatives/en/

[16] https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/projects/

[17] https://www.fao.org/gef/projects/detail/en/c/1274202/

[18] https://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/transparency/en/

[19] http://clh-ckan.apps.fao.org/en/dataset/building-global-capacity-to-increase-transparency-in-the-forest-sector

[20] https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/the-big-picture/what-is-action-for-climate-empowerment#eq-1

[21] GEF_R.08_29_Rev.01_GEF8_Programming_Directions.pdf

[22] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.50.06_CBIT_Programming_Directions_0_0.pdf

[23] https://www.fao.org/3/cc0532en/cc0532en.pdf

[24] https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties/national-focal-point

[25] https://fra-data.fao.org/

[26] https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-microdata/en/

[27] https://intranet.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/scp/FRA_Report_final.pdf

[28] https://www.fao.org/capacity-development/resources/practical-tools/design-capacity-development/en/

[29] https://www.fao.org/3/bc539e/bc539e.pdf

[30] https://www.fao.org/3/i2516e/i2516e.pdf

[31] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8908en

[32] https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/

[33] https://www.fao.org/3/nk058en/nk058en.pdf

[34] https://unfccc.int/pccb

[35] https://data4betterclimateaction.com/2021/11/02/forest-data-transparency-for-climate-action/

[36] https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties/national-focal-point

[37] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FOREST EUROPE, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Observatory of Central African Forests (OFAC/COMIFAC) and the Montréal Process.

[38] Please refer to GEF Gender Equality Guidelines, Guide to mainstreaming gender in FAO's project cycle, GEF Gender Guidelines.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

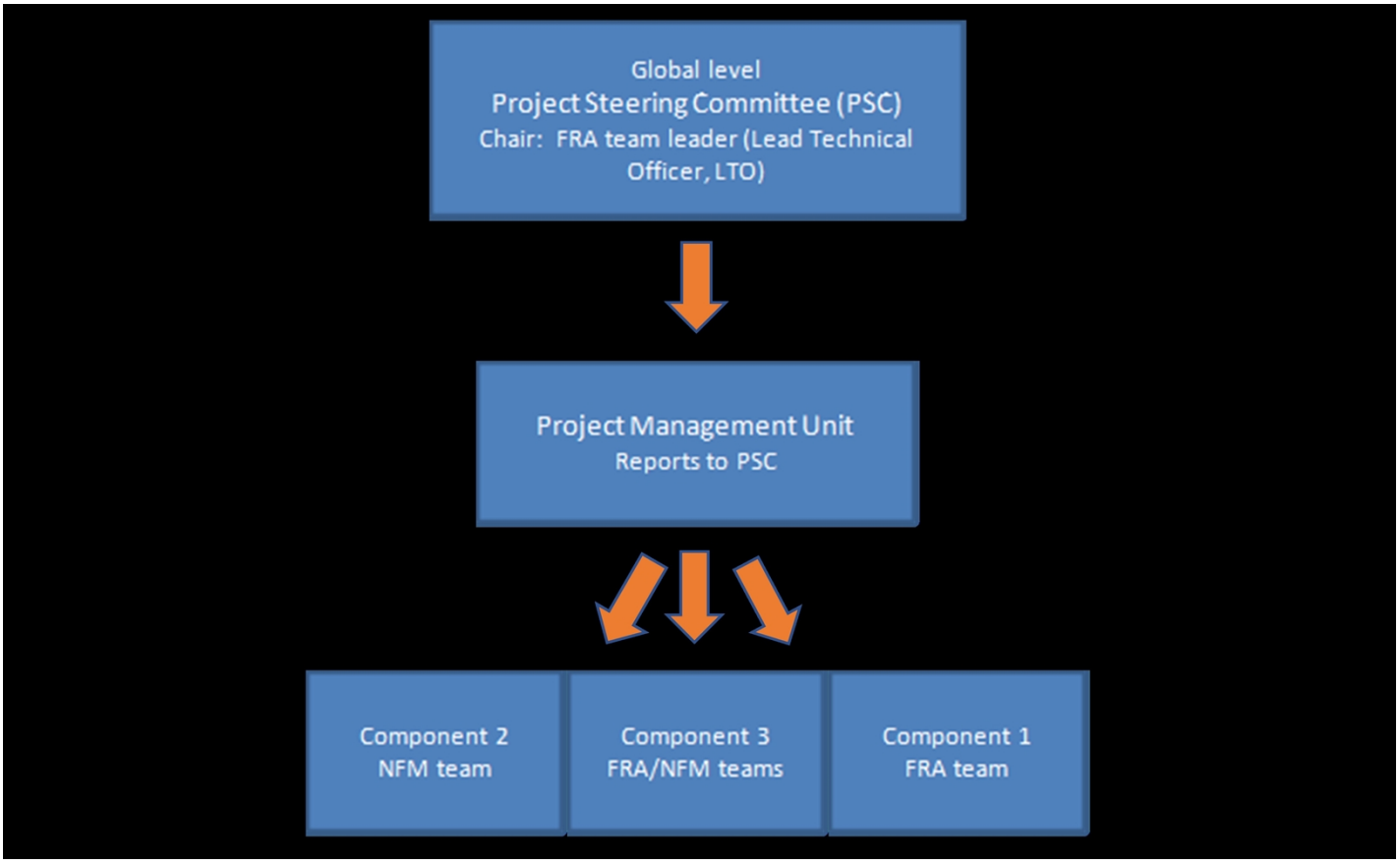
6.a Institutional arrangements for project implementation.

The main **Executing Partner** will be the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO will have a project coordinator whose task will be to provide oversight to project activities and coordinate activities between the

FRA and National Forest Monitoring teams, which belong to the crosscutting work stream on '*Data, Statistics and Analytics*' of the Forestry Division of the FAO.

FAO is also the **GEF Agency** for the proposed project and as such, will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping, and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.

The project organization structure is as follows:



The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established, chaired by the Budget Holder (FAO's Team Leader of the National Forest Monitoring team), co-chaired by the Lead Technical Officer (FAO's FRA team leader), and comprised of a representative from the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) Leads Group,[5] a representative from the UNFCCC and a representative from a research institution/university. The project coordinator will be the Secretary to the PSC. The members of the PSC will assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in the global and/or international context.

The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; and

iii) making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Coordinator of the PMU.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be co-funded by the GEF grant. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the PSC, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of a Project Coordinator (NPC) who will work full-time for the project lifetime. In addition, the PMU will include a Chief Technical Adviser (CTA), administrative assistant and a monitoring and financial expert.

The Project Coordinator (TORs included in Annex N of the Agency project document) will oversee daily implementation, management, administration, and technical supervision of the project, ssupported by one operations and finance assistance, and a project assistant, within the framework delineated by the PSC. S/he will be responsible, among others, for:

- Coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities
- Tracking the project's progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs
- Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports
- Ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO
- Maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources as per OPA provisions, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and designated auditors when requested;
- Implementing and managing the project's monitoring and communications plans
- Organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;
- Submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO;
- Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR);
- Supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);
- Submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate the information exchange between the OP and FAO, if needed;
- Informing the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex K, L for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s)and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

The project "**Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest): accelerating capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness raising'** was designed to support developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements (ETF) of the Paris Agreement.

This new project will build on the experience and results from the 'Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector", implemented between 2020-2022 (CBIT-Forest [2020-2022]), which was also executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The new project will directly benefit at least 1000 individuals in at least 20 countries. It will focus on enhancing quality, timeliness, accessibility and usability of forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement; developing capacities to work towards open and transparent data at the national, regional and global levels through innovative global composite learning programs combining virtual and in-person training; sharing knowledge as the international momentum builds surrounding forests and transparency; and cementing networks regionally and with new partners, such as academia, to ensure sustainability and transparency of forest reporting. FAO offers the optimal mix of technical and institutional abilities to achieve project objectives with a long-term impact and sustain results over time due to past lessons learned and ongoing activities related to forest monitoring, including implementing projects, developing platforms and strengthening networks.

FAO has a unique global comparative advantage in improving the quality of forest data, improving access to national authorities, latest tools and the best available sources to generate forest related data and share them transparently and effectively at the national and international levels. FAO also has a convening power, bringing together multiple technical and developmental partners, with a truly global reach. By executing this global project, FAO will be able to meet countries' expectations for FAO capacity-development services.

FAO has a **unique global role** and, thus, there is not a global level partner that is comparable in its suitability to be the executing partner for this project. There are three elements to consider regarding FAO's role: i) the ***mandate to act***; ii) the ***capacity to act***; and iii) the ***position to act***. Beginning with its ***mandate to act***, FAO is responsible for collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and disseminating information related to nutrition, food and agriculture, including forests, in accordance with its mandate (FAO Constitution Article 1.1). In addition, countries officially report data to FAO. FAO has been regularly monitoring the world's forests for over seventy years, since the first Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). Regarding its ***capacity to act***, FAO has the commensurate operational and technical global knowledge and capacity to implement the given project through its global networks, including the officially nominated FRA national correspondents, covering all 236 countries and territories of the world. In addition, FAO has a unique relationship with key global knowledge partners, including the Global Forest Observations Initiative. FAO has direct access to governments as well as regional, sub-regional and country offices in all regions which will be supporting the implementation of the project activities. Furthermore, FAO is best ***positioned to act*** considering not only its mandate and capacity, but also its position as compared to other actors at national, regional or global levels. For over 50 years, FAO has been supporting member countries in the collection of forest and agricultural land information for national and international needs with the overarching motivation that better forest information leads to better decisions, thus resulting in better actions in the forest sector and beyond. FAO is a global leader in providing technical assistance in projects such as this and can implement the project because it has the capacity and knowledge to support national forest monitoring. FAO is a trusted United Nations Agency with a global mandate for forest monitoring issues. It provides strong expertise and extensive experience in forest monitoring globally and has a proven history of successfully hosting secretariats.

As a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Agency and implementing partner, FAO will nominate an interdisciplinary project task force, including a Budget holder (BH), who is accountable for managing project resources. The BH is responsible for the timely submission of monitoring and evaluation reports, as per the Funding Agreement. The second officer will serve as the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), overseeing all technical aspects of project implementation and ensuring the smooth flow of technical expertise and backstopping. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit, the Finance Division and the Office of Evaluation will oversee project execution. These units are all placed under different lines of management from the executing units. Such provision, in addition to FAO's rigorous internal control framework, will ensure adequate internal firewalls in compliance with the GEF standard of separation of implementation and execution-related functions.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will coordinate with a range of on-going and planned to enable activity projects/initiatives at the global level to contribute to economies of scale. At country level, a case-by-case approach will ensure coordination between FAO and other implementing agencies.

The new project will collaborate and coordinate with the two global CBIT projects, through already existing formal and informal mechanisms, such as the: a) Global capacity-building towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector (CBIT-AFOLU) led by FAO (GEF ID: 9864) a second phase project document will be submitted; and the Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, CBIT-GSP platform (GEF ID: 10088) led by UNEP which has is now under implementation.

The two FAO proposed global projects do not overlap as they have very different objectives and will work on different areas related to transparency. While CBIT-Forest focuses exclusively on Capacity- Building related to forestry data collection, the activities of CBIT-AFOLU include Capacity-Building on ETF and MPGs to develop and strengthen institutional arrangements, and to comply with ETF reporting requirements including transitioning from BUR to BTR, improve NDC tracking and compiling the Common Reporting Table encompassing the entire AFOLU sector, and also non-AFOLU sector as for country needs.

In addition, the FAO global projects will have many synergies resulting from their specific focuses. Most importantly:

- The improved quality, accessibility and transparency of forest related data resulting form CBIT-Forest informs the GHG reporting done under CBIT-AFOLU
- The tools and methods, such as Open Foris and LoGIc serve both, forestry specific and general AFOLU needs.
- Joint outreach within the Forestry and GHG inventory communities will allow reaching larger audience
- The capacity development material developed in CBIT-AFOLU will help CBIT-Forest to inform forest inventory and monitoring specialist on the specific needs of the AFOLU sector's GHG inventories and reporting.

The **new** project will enhance capacity of countries to collect, analyze and disseminate forest-related data while the CBIT-AFOLU project will share a set of global tools, templates, and guidelines useful to respond to transparency-related requirements for mitigation and adaptation. Both FAO global proposals are different in scope and the needs addressed but complement each other in aiming to provide countries with a complete package of activities that will contribute and/or explore transparency-related requirements over time. FAO will ensure coordination among global proposals via regular information sharing and/or meetings.

The **new** project will also ensure coordination among different teams at FAO that provide support on forest-related data collection and analysis and REDD+ processes. NFM has a long history at FAO (from the 1950s) through national support for forest monitoring and the FRA. In the last 10 years, through the UN-REDD Programme and its other Forest Monitoring and Assessment activities, the FAO REDD+ and National Forest Monitoring teams has coordinated and supported nationally led initiatives in 64 developing countries. The benefits of high-quality data produced for national purposes go well beyond the country borders. Through a global network of the FRA-NC these data are reported to FAO's FRA (http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/), a comprehensive country-driven up-to-date assessment of global forest-related data from

more than 234 countries and territories. The main report is delivered every 5 years, with country reports prepared by officially nominated National Correspondents and published after review and validation. With its comparative advantage and current network of countries, FAO can get direct request from countries and access to high-level and technical experts to implement capacity-building activities that are envisaged with this **new** project.

Since 2008, FAO has developed a variety of technical solutions to assist countries in MRV for REDD+ and now on transparency efforts, including the Open Foris, including SEPAL. The **new** project will leverage these as well as other tools and technologies, guidelines, manuals, platforms etc. that can support countries' NFMS capacity-building processes.

Furthermore, the project will use existing forest-related projects and networks, such as the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) (http://www.gfoi.org/) which is led by FAO together with the Governments of Australia, Norway and the USA and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). The GFOI is an informal partnership to help coordinate international support to developing countries on forest monitoring and greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting for REDD+ and related activities. Several major international experts and stakeholders, including the UNFCCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Global Observation of Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD), support the GFOI.

The new project will also ensure information sharing with other UN Agencies involved in transparency-related activities, e.g., UNDP (Climate Promise) as well as other ETF-related initiatives such as ICAT.

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		300		
Male		700		
Total	**0**	**1000**	0	**0**

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

The number of individuals was estimated based on the number of contributors from FRA 2020 process (800 contributors) plus the possible number of individuals that can benefit country activities (200 individuals).

Risks to Project Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the project implementation phase and what are the mitigation strategies the project will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project implementation-such as in terms of delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question

the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the "Project description" section above).

The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Comments
Climate	Low	N/A Due to the nature of the project, climate impact do not pose a direct risk to project progress and outcomes.
Environment and Social	Low	Risk: Project fails to establish suitable connection to target users Mitigation action: Country level engagement and support will be routinely undertaken
Political and Governance	Low	Risk: Political and economic environment in the countries does not favour participation in project activities. Mitigation action: Work together with the countries, partners and other stakeholders to promote the benefits of transparency requirements
Macro-economic		N/A
Strategies and Policies	Low	Risk: Countries are unwilling to participate to the project activities related to data sharing, capacity-building and knowledge exchange Mitigation action: Consultation through regular engagement to ensure consistency with existing capacity and creating competency where required.
Technical design of project or program	Low	Risk: Inadequate project management Mitigation action: Monthly review of transaction lists, rigorous application of all proven and relevant project

		accounting, financial management, recruitment and procurement procedures of FAO.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Low	Risk: FRA national correspondents, partners and other focal points are unwilling to familiarize themselves with FRA 2025 process Mitigation action: Communicate consistently and effectively on the FRA 2025 process with all stakeholders
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Low	N/A The project does not require large procurement actions.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	Risk: Lack of commitment of countries to participate to the Capacity-Building and knowledge sharing activities as well as lack of interest on the use of knowledge products and platforms developed by the project FRA data users and national correspondents discontinue the use of the online platform for data entry / internet connectivity problems Mitigation action: Keep continuous and sustained interactions with countries involved
Other		N/A
Financial Risks for NGI projects		N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Low	

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

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

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

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies

This **new** project is aligned with GEF8 Programming Direction.[22][63] It will contribute with GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area- Pillar II: objective 2.1. *Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT.*

This **new** project is aligned with the GEF CBIT Programming Directions.[23][64]As per paragraph 85 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, CBIT aims: i) to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities; ii) to provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement; and iii) to assist in the improvement of transparency over time.

The project components 1, 2 and 3 are aligned with the activities stipulated in the Programming Directions for the CBIT, paragraph 21, specifically, as follows:

- 21(b): Development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency, and building capacity, building on existing best practice materials, sharing of tools, methodologies, and data, and technical consultations on lessons learned from on-going/existing assessments (Component 1, 2, 3);
- 21(d): Regional and global capacity building programs to enhance transparency, such as institutional and policy measures, tools, methodologies, and data, tracking progress and enhancements (Component 1, 2);
- 21(e): Exchange of transparency practitioners and experts, planners and implementers: south-south and north-south exchange of experiences and lessons learned (Component 2, 3);
- 21(g): Collaboration with UNFCCC bodies on transparency and capacity building (Component 2);
- 21(h): Collaboration with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including Taskforce on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and other initiatives supporting UNFCCC processes (Component 2); and
- 21(i): Contributions to knowledge management on transparency-related initiatives (Component 3).

Alignment with Country/Regional Priorities

This project is a normative global project designed to accelerate capacity building, knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination. In turn, this will help developing countries meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2C above pre-industrial levels. The Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through (intended) nationally determined contributions and to strengthen these efforts in the coming years. The Paris Agreement was adopted in 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Under article 13 of the Paris Agreement, an enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for action and support was established. At COP 24, **decision 1/CP.24**[24] on the preparation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, specifically decision **18/CMA.1** related to the modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPG) for the ETF. Also confirming the support to developing countries both pre- and post- 2020 with the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency, CBIT (see section 1.2.2 *Alignment to GEF priorities*). FAO will ensure that capacity-building activities and knowledge products on topics related to the ETF foreseen are fully in line with the MPGs, including the most recent guidance for operationalizing the MPGs contained in decision 5/CMA.3.

A recent survey done by the UNFCCC[1][65] asked participants to indicate the extent to which they are familiar with the modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPGs) under the ETF. 59 per cent (55 per cent in 2019) indicated they were familiar with the MPGs but would need more guidance and detailed information to identify needs in the implementation of the ETF; 25 per cent (24 per cent in 2019) indicated they were knowledgeable enough to identify needs and start planning for its implementation and; 16 per cent (21 percent in 2019) indicated they had limited knowledge. These results confirm the need to enhance support and share knowledge related to the ETF.

Parties under the ETF of the Paris Agreement are required to submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR) and national inventory report by 31 December 2024. The least developed countries and small island developing states may submit the information referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement at their discretion. BTRs will be considered at a collective level, as an important input into the global stocktake (GS). The GS aims to assess the world's collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its

long-term goals. Therefore, this **new** project will contribute to remaining gaps and needs related to forest-related data collection, analysis, and dissemination, resulting in better reporting.

Moreover, this **new** project can contribute to achieving multiple and considerable global environment benefits in the context of the **Rio Conventions**. It can therefore contribute not only to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, but to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which many countries have signed, with 114 signatories. Establishing and running NFMS has a direct link to policy, informing management and decision-makers of the sustainable use of forest resources and the efficient protection and conservation of forest ecosystems.[29]

Evidence suggests this project will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); in particular, SDG **15,** "Life on Land" aiming to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Currently, FRA network of FRA national correspondents are reporting on SDG 15.1.1 and 15.2.1. for the FRA 2020 reporting process and will do so for FRA 2025. FAO launched an e-learning course, illustrating the rationale of indicators related to forest area and sustainable forest management explaining the process/tools available for compiling data related through the FRA (https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=446). Therefore, the project will contribute to the dissemination of the e-learning course and enhancing countries capacities on SDG 15.1.115.1.1 and 15.2.1 . By supporting the implementation of the ETF under the Paris Agreement with a gender-responsive approach, the project also contributes to **SDG 13** "Climate Action" and **SDG 5** "Gender Equality", respectively.

In addition, the new project will contribute with the recently approved FAO's Climate Change Strategy[2][66], which will drive the implementation of FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31,[3][67] and guide FAO in providing strengthened support to Members countries in their ambitions to address climate change in agrifood systems, and in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the project will contribute with the Programme Priority Areas (PPA) on Better Environment - BE1: Climate change mitigating and adapted agri-food systems.

[1] CGE Stocktake Survey Report 2021 | UNFCCC

[2] https://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/climate-change-strategy/en/

[3] https://www.fao.org/about/strategy-programme-budget/strategic-framework/en/

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; No

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) Yes

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted.

Yes

Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate and these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF, SCCF). This section identifies the direct beneficiaries from the project.

The **new** project is a global normative project guided by FAO's corporate approach to Capacity Development[23], which considers the following interlinked dimensions: individuals, organizations, and the enabling environment. Components 1 and 2 of the **new** project will enhance the knowledge and skills of **individuals** coming from forest-related **organizations** (and/or institutions), whose work results rely on the performance of the organizations in which they work. Besides, the project will indirectly influence the **enabling environment**, which will contribute to the effectiveness of organizations.

It is demonstrated that technical and functional capacities are crucial for strengthening capacities. Specifically, functional capacities enable individuals and organizations to lead and manage their change initiatives. For example, functional capacities to generate, manage and exchange information and knowledge or engage in networks, alliances, and partnerships. Component 3 of this project will facilitate knowledge sharing practitioners.

In addition, the GAP provide a series of concrete actions to mainstream gender (see Annex K: *GAP*). The new project will try to curb the uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services of **women** as opposed to men, by (i) undertaking strategies to increase women's participation in the project and ii) raise awareness on the role of women in forest monitoring and reporting.

The socio-economic benefits of the project are multiple and will be monitored during the project life through the following indicators (see Annex A1: *Logical Framework Matrix*): a) Improving women's participation and decision making will be measured as follows: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and age (GEF Core Indicator 11); and b) Investing in women's skills and capacity will be measured as follows: Number of individuals accessing the virtual capacity-building activities disaggregated by sex and age.

Decent rural employment is not directly relevant to this project. Overall, the project will adhere to human rights-based approaches, including the right to food, decent work, and full accountability to affected populations.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
FAO	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	Grant	2,000,000.00	190,000.00	2,190,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**2,000,000.00**	**190,000.00**	**2,190,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

false

PPG Amount ($)

PPG Agency Fee ($)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
Total PPG Amount ($)					**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)

		Regional/ Global			
Total GEF Resources ($)					**0.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CCM-CBIT	GET	2,000,000.00	5,176,416.00
Total Project Cost ($)		**2,000,000.00**	**5,176,416.00**

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,176,416.00
Total Co-financing ($)				**5,176,416.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

New and additional investments have been mobilised as co-financing, including:

FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) - GCP/GLO/1030/MUL

FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) - EU FRA2025

FAO National Forest Monitoring (NFM) - GCP/GLO/789/MUL

Details about these investments are found in the relevant sections below.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	5/26/2023	Rocio Condor	0039340125386	rocio.condor@fao.org

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

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (Month, day, year)

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Objective: Developing countries have enhanced capacity, knowledge and awareness on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by sex and age (GEF Core indicator 11)	0	NA	At least 1000 (of which at least 300 women) (+)	Reports, list of participants	Commitment of countries to participate to the Capacity-Building and knowledge sharing activities as well as interest on the use of knowledge products and platforms developed by the project. Political and governance conditions in concerned countries remain stable and favorable for participation in the project	PMU
Component 1: Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data in support of the transparency requirements							
Outcome 1: Enhanced access and use of best available forest-related data to respond to the transparency requirements	Number of users accessing the FRA 2025 platform per month	0	-	1,600	Records from the FRA online platform users https://fra-data.fao.org/	FRA national correspondents are able to connect to internet to access and use FRA reporting platform. National institutional capacities remain in place to allow for participation in this project	FRA team
	Number of page views in the FRA 2025 platform per month	0	-	4,000	Records from the FRA online platform users https://fra-data.fao.org/	FRA national correspondents are able to connect to internet to access and	FRA team

						use FRA reporting platform.	
Output.1.1 To facilitate access to best available forest resources data, FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) data entry, review, reporting and dissemination platform improved with additional functionalities	Number of additional functionalities added to the FRA online platform	0	1	At least 2	FRA online platform online: https://fra-data.fao.org/	FRA data users and national correspondents continue to use the online platform for data entry and uses and find the updated modules/functionalities relevant. FRA online platform as well as the proposed updates remain compatible with FAO digital Strategy.	FRA team
Output.1.2 The FRA platform contains the most updated, reviewed and validated data for countries and territories of the world to support global forest transparency	Number of FRA country and territory reports that are: • prepared (*) • reviewed • validated	0	At least 200 reports prepared and reviewed	At least 200 reports validated	FRA online platform online: https://fra-data.fao.org/ Regional workshop reports, with sex and age information	Countries are willing to submit reports to the FRA 2025 process; FRA reporting platform functional National stakeholder engagement in the reporting process remains high and sustained	FRA team
Output.1.3 Networking, communication and awareness raising with focal points from the different forest-related data collection and reporting processes, to report transparent and consistent forest data.	Number of focal points informed about FRA 2025 process	0	340	At least 500 (++)	Communication exchanges and meetings minutes	FRA national correspondents, partners and other focal points are willing to familiarize themselves with FRA 2025 process	FRA team
Component 2: Enhanced technical capacity and knowledge sharing of governmental counterparts on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the transparency framework							
Results chain	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term target**	**Final target**	**Means of verification**	**Assumptions**	**Responsible for data collection**

Outcome 2: **Improved National Forest Monitoring Systems through enhanced technical capacity of countries to monitor and report forests, and share knowledge to support the ETF implementation, with attention to gender**	Number of countries benefiting from data sharing, capacity-building and knowledge exchange activities	0	0	At least 20 countries	Statistics obtained from the FAO eLearning Academy; statistics from meetings (reports).	Countries are willing to participate to the project activities related to data sharing, capacity-building and knowledge exchange Political and governance conditions in concerned countries remain stable and favorable for participation in the project	NFM team
Output. 2.1 Forest data sharing enhanced through their publication in an open and digital platform.	Number of countries sharing forest-related data and information publicly	3	1	At least 6 countries (+++)	FAO Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) catalogue platform with information available on forest data: https://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-microdata/en/; national forest monitoring platforms.	Countries are willing to share forest-related data in the FAO FAM platform National stakeholder engagement in the data sharing process remains high and sustained	NFM team
Output.2.2 Enhanced technical capacity of forest and climate stakeholders on available platforms, resources and tools for forest-related data collection and analysis to support transparency reporting (e.g. Open Foris)	Number of individuals accessing the virtual capacity-building activities disaggregated by sex and age.	0	0	At least 200 individuals	Statistics obtained from the FAO eLearning Academy	Individuals willing to participate to the virtual capacity-building activities National and individual institutional capacities remain in place to allow for participation in this project	NFM team
Output 2.3 Knowledge sharing networks on national forest	Number of networks facilitated	3 (ENFIN, North America, LAC)	-	4	Meeting/workshop reports with sex and age disaggregated data on participation.-	Countries in the regions are willing to participate to the	NFM team

inventories facilitated and improved at national/regional levels to support forest transparency						knowledge sharing activities National stakeholder engagement in the knowledge sharing process remains high and sustained	
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)							
Results chain	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term target**	**Final target**	**Means of verification**	**Assumptions**	**Responsible for data collection**
Outcome 3: **Transparency practitioners and experts benefit from knowledge products on forest transparency**	Total number of practitioners' accessing knowledge products	0	1000	2000	Analytics form FAO web page: https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/	Practitioners make active use of the knowledge products	PMU, FRA/NFM teams
Output.3.1 New set of knowledge products on successful forest data transparency developed and disseminated.	Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated	0	0	3	Analytics form FAO web page: https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/	Practitioners are interested on knowledge products, which are freely available National stakeholder engagement in the knowledge sharing process remains high and sustained	FRA/NFM teams
Output.3.2 Project communication and outreach strategy designed and implemented	Communication and outreach kit tool operational and further developed with new content	1	1	1	Trello Board: https://trello.com/b/XHO51A7K/cbit-forest	Project activities have been developed as planned.	PMU
Output.3.3 Project results successfully monitored and reported	Number of project performance reports produced.	0	2	6 (**)	PPR, PIR (FPMIS platform), final evaluation	Project activities have been implemented and reported on-time. Natural conditions and governance/political conditions in countries allow for project implementation	PMU

(+) Note: at least 30% women based on the gender analysis on the forest monitoring field. The number of individuals was estimated based on the number of contributors from FRA 2020 process (800 contributors) plus the possible number of individuals that can benefit country activities (200 individuals).

(++) Note: in FRA 2020 we informed only FRA focal points (NCs and alternates). This time, we will inform also all UNFCCC (195) and SDG focal points.

(+++) Note: 3 already existing FAO FAM platform + 3 additional – one per region

(*) also desk studies are included here

(**) 5 PPR/PIR + 1 final evaluation

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Total	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Rome, Italy	41.88319	12.48925	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

This is a global, normative project. Therefore, it cannot be geo-located. However, the coordinates of FAO HQ have been provided, as this is the location where the project coordination unit will be placed.

ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard screening/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts.

Title

ESS screening checklist

Envi and Social Risk Level Certificate

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1				Component 2				Component 3			M&E	PMC	FAO Support Services	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				1.1	1.2	1.3	Total	2.1	2.2	2.3	Total	3.1	3.2	Total							
5011 Salaries professionals																					
Forestry Officer	Month	4.00	16,243	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,972	**64,972**	-	-	-	-	-	64,972	64,972	32,486	32,486	-
Chief Technical Advisor	Month	14.88	13,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	202,800	-	**202,800**	-	-	202,800	202,800	67,600	67,600	67,600
Project Coordinator	Month	6.87	13,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,887	52,744	93,631	93,631	31,210	31,210	31,210
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals				-	-	-	-	-	-	**64,972**	**64,972**	**202,800**	-	**202,800**	**40,887**	**52,744**	361,403	361,403	**131,296**	**131,296**	**98,810**
5012 GS Salaries																					
Administrative Assistant	Month	9.00	7,202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,814	64,814	64,814	21,605	21,605	21,605
5012 Sub-total GS salaries				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**64,814**	64,814	64,814	**21,605**	**21,605**	**21,605**
5013 Consultants																					
IT Developer (Platform Developer)	Month	11.00	8,261	90,866	-	-	90,866	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,866	90,866	90,866	-	-
IT Developer (Geospatial Platform Development)	Month	11.00	6,884	75,721	-	-	*75,721*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,721	75,721	75,721	-	-
User Survey Consultant	Month	2.00	6,884	13,768	-	-	*13,768*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,768	13,768	13,768	-	-
Platform Translation	Lumpsum	1.00	10,000	10,000	-	-	*10,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-
Reporting Consultants	Month	28.00	7,366	-	206,237	-	206,237	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	206,237	206,237	162,043.53	44,193.69	-
Editor cost english version, proof editing, layout (key findings and main report)	Lumpsum	1.00	50,000	-	50,000	-	*50,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000
Translation key findings report in 6 languages	Lumpsum	1.00	32,000	-	32,000	-	*32,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,000	32,000	-	-	32,000
Interactive Material Consultant	Lumpsum	1.00	30,000	-	-	30,000	*30,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-
Videographer and Infographic specialist	Lumpsum	1.00	30,000	-	-	30,000	*30,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-
Consultant for analysis of synergies between UNFCCC BTR/FRA reporting	Lumpsum	1.00	20,000	-	-	20,000	*20,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-
NFI Consultant - FAM	Month	2.00	9,647	-	-	-	-	19,294	-	-	**19,294**	-	-	-	-	-	19,294	19,294	9,647	9,647	-
NFI Consultants - Country Support	Month	47.22	7,615	-	-	-	-	163,202	112,439	83,913	***359,554***	-	-	-	-	-	359,554	359,554	154,735	151,561	53,258
Webinar Consultant	Month	1.64	6,038	-	-	-	-	3,294	3,294	-	**6,587**	3,294	-	***3,294***	-	-	9,881	9,881	3,294	3,294	3,294
MRV/ETF Consultants	Month	4.00	7,942	-	-	-	-	-	31,767	-	***31,767***	-	-	-	-	-	31,767	31,767	23,825	7,942	-
NFI Consultants to support virtual learning activities	Month	2.00	10,561	-	-	-	-	-	21,123	-	***21,123***	-	-	-	-	-	21,123	21,123	10,561	10,561	-
eLearning Consultants	Lumpsum	1.00	82,566	-	-	-	-	-	82,566	-	***82,566***	-	-	-	-	-	82,566	82,566	-	82,566	-
Editors and Translators	Lumpsum	1.00	29,657	-	-	-	-	-	29,657	-	***29,657***	-	-	-	-	-	29,657	29,657	-	29,657	-
Knowledge Management Consultant	Month	2.00	6,563	-	-	-	-	-	13,127	-	***13,127***	-	-	-	-	-	13,127	13,127	-	13,127	-
Designer	Month	5.00	4,773	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,867	-	***23,867***	-	-	23,867	23,867	9,547	9,547	4,773
Proof-readers and editors	Month	3.00	4,320	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,960	-	***12,960***	-	-	12,960	12,960	4,320	4,320	4,320
Comms and Outreach consultants	Month	8.00	5,967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47,734	-	***47,734***	-	-	47,734	47,734	17,900	17,900	11,933
Fincial Monitoring and Reporting	Month	9.00	5,507	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,563	49,563	49,563	16,521	16,521	16,521
Sub-total international Consultants				**190,354**	**288,237**	**80,000**	**558,592**	**185,789**	**293,972**	**83,913**	**563,674**	**87,854**	-	***87,854***	-	**49,563**	1,259,683	1,259,683	**652,748**	**430,835**	**176,100**
5021 Travel																					
OFAC/COMIFAC participation to the regional workshops	Lumpsum	1.00	11,500	-	11,500	-	*11,500*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,500	11,500	11,500	-	-
FRA Workshops travel	Lumpsum	1.00	40,000	-	40,000	-	*40,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	-
Duty Travel	Lumpsum	6.00	4,800	-	-	-	-	28,800	-	-	***28,800***	-	-	-	-	-	28,800	28,800	-	28,800	-
Travel to Regional Workshop	Travel	28.00	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	84,000	***84,000***	-	-	-	-	-	84,000	84,000	-	84,000	-
5021 Sub-total travel				-	**51,500**	-	***51,500***	**28,800**	-	**84,000**	**112,800**	-	-	-	-	-	164,300	164,300	**51,500**	**112,800**	-
5023 Training																					
FRA Workshops trainings	Lumpsum	1.00	40,000	-	40,000	-	*40,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	-	-
Regional Workshop	Event	2.00	9,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	***19,000***	-	-	-	-	-	19,000	19,000	-	19,000	-
5023 Sub-total training				-	**40,000**	-	***40,000***	-	-	**19,000**	**19,000**	-	-	-	-	-	59,000	59,000	**40,000**	**19,000**	-
5027 TSS Budget																					
Terminal Report	Lumpsum	1.00	6,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,800	-	6,800	6,800	-	-	6,800
Final Evaluation	Lumpsum	1.00	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**56,800**	-	56,800	56,800	-	-	**56,800**
5028 GOE budget																					
Interpretation services	Lumpsum	4.00	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	28,000	-	***28,000***	-	-	-	-	-	28,000	28,000	-	28,000	-
General Expenses and Printing	Lumpsum	3.00	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				-	-	-	-	-	**28,000**	-	**28,000**	-	-	-	-	**6,000**	34,000	34,000	**2,000**	**30,000**	**2,000**
TOTAL				**190,354**	**379,737**	**80,000**	**650,092**	**214,589**	**321,972**	**251,886**	**788,446**	**290,654**	**0**	**290,654**	**97,687**	**173,121**	**2,000,000**	**2,000,000**	**899,149**	**745,536**	**355,315**

SUBTOTAL Comp 1	**650,092**	
SUBTOTAL Comp 2	**788,446**	
SUBTOTAL Comp 3	**290,654**	
M&E Budget	**97,687**	
Subtotal	**1,826,879**	
Project Management Cost (PMC)	**173,121**	**9.48%**
TOTAL GEF	**2,000,000**	

Indicative thresholds for M&E budgets:

5% for projects up to USD 5 million,
3% for projects from USD 5 to USD 10 million and

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1				Component 2				Component 3			M&E	PMC	FAO Support Services	Total GEF	Year 1	Year 2
				1.1	1.2	1.3	Total	2.1	2.2	2.3	Total	3.1	3.2	Total						
5011 Salaries professionals																				
Forestry Officer	Month	4.00	16,243	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,972	**64,972**	-	-	-	-	-	64,972	64,972	32,486	32,486
Chief Technical Advisor	Month	14.88	13,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	202,800	-	**202,800**	-	-	202,800	202,800	67,600	67,600
Project Coordinator	Month	6.87	13,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,887	52,744	93,631	93,631	31,210	31,210
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals				-	-	-	-	-	-	**64,972**	**64,972**	**202,800**	-	**202,800**	**40,887**	**52,744**	361,403	361,403	**131,296**	**131,296**
5012 GS Salaries																				
Administrative Assistant	Month	9.00	7,202	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,814	64,814	64,814	21,605	21,605
5012 Sub-total GS salaries				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**64,814**	64,814	64,814	**21,605**	**21,605**
5013 Consultants																				
IT Developer (Platform Developer)	Month	11.00	8,261	90,866	-	-	*90,866*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,866	90,866	90,866	-
IT Developer (Geospatial Platform Development)	Month	11.00	6,884	75,721	-	-	*75,721*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,721	75,721	75,721	-
User Survey Consultant	Month	2.00	6,884	13,768	-	-	*13,768*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,768	13,768	13,768	-
Platform Translation	Lumpsum	1.00	10,000	10,000	-	-	*10,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Reporting Consultants	Month	28.00	7,366	-	206,237	-	*206,237*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	206,237	206,237	162,043.53	44,193.69
Editor cost english version, proof editing, layout (key findings and main report)	Lumpsum	1.00	50,000	-	50,000	-	*50,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	-
Translation key findings report in 6 languages	Lumpsum	1.00	32,000	-	32,000	-	*32,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,000	32,000	-	-
Interactive Material Consultant	Lumpsum	1.00	30,000	-	-	30,000	*30,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000
Videographer and Infographic specialist	Lumpsum	1.00	30,000	-	-	30,000	*30,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	30,000	-
Consultant for analysis of synergies between UNFCCC BTR/FRA reporting	Lumpsum	1.00	20,000	-	-	20,000	*20,000*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-
NFI Consultant - FAM	Month	2.00	9,647	-	-	-	-	19,294	-	-	**19,294**	-	-	-	-	-	19,294	19,294	9,647	9,647
NFI Consultants - Country Support	Month	47.22	7,615	-	-	-	-	163,202	112,439	83,913	***359,554***	-	-	-	-	-	359,554	359,554	154,735	151,561
Webinar Consultant	Month	1.64	6,038	-	-	-	-	3,294	3,294	-	**6,587**	3,294	-	***3,294***	-	-	9,881	9,881	3,294	3,294
MRV/ETF Consultants	Month	4.00	7,942	-	-	-	-	-	31,767	-	***31,767***	-	-	-	-	-	31,767	31,767	23,825	7,942

Copy of CBIT-2 Budget V6.xlsx