



Strengthening the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11497

Countries

Panama

Project Name

Strengthening the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama
Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

2/6/2024

Review completed by PM

2/14/2024

Program Manager

Esteban Bermudez Forn

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

CEO Approval Request

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 3/5/2024: Yes.

Agency Response

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024: Cleared.

EBF 3/5/2024: Following the guidance on applying OECD-DAC Rio Markers shared by the GEF Secretariat on April 2023 to agencies, please change the CCA Rio Marker from 2 to 1.

Agency Response

Response18/04/2024

CCA Rio Marker was changed from 2 to 1.

2. Project Summary.

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project, is well written and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 5/14/2024: Cleared.

EBF 4/22/2024: Apologies if we were not clear enough. Please make a brief mention of the expected GEBs to be achieved by the project by mentioning the people benefiting from GEF-financed investments under Core Indicator 11 (i.e., 500 people, 50% women). Kindly review

the added text since it makes reference to Core Indicator 6, but the current project is not expected to mitigate or reduce GHG emissions.

EBF 3/5/2024: Please briefly mention the expected GEBs to be achieved by the project in the summary.

Agency Response

Response 08.05.2024

The paragraph summarizing the GEBs to be achieved by the project was reviewed and the expected number of beneficiaries was included.

Response 18/04/2024

A paragraph summarizing the GEBs to be achieved by the project was added to the Project summary in the document.

3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?**
- b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and appropriately funded?**
- d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10%? If above 10%, is the justification acceptable?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024:

1. Cleared
2. Cleared
3. Cleared

EBF 3/5/2024:

1. Output 1.1 is incomplete in the Project Description Overview; please correct it.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective ⓘ

Strengthen the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama

Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Integrated national climate monitoring, reporting, and verification system	Technical Assistance	1. The Government of Panama tracks, measures, and transparently reports climate data through a national transparency system aligned with the UNFCCC Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)	<p>user-friendly, secure, gender and culturally sensitive, and broad reaching is accessible to stakeholders.</p> <p>1.2. Institutional arrangements for entities to provide data for and use data of the National Climate Transparency platform (PNTC) are strengthened.</p>	GET	649,350.00	210,360.00

2. The co-financing contribution to PMC is not proportionate compared with the GEF contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 10%, for a co-financing of \$400,360 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$40,000 instead of \$21,000 (which is approximately 5%).

	Sub Total (\$)	1,365,000.00	400,360.00
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⓘ			
	GET	135,000.00	21,000.00
	Sub Total(\$)	135,000.00	21,000.00
	Total Project Cost(\$)	1,500,000.00	421,360.00

3. Please ensure under M&E that gender-related results are monitored and reported on.

Agency Response

Responses 18/04/2024

1. Output 1.1 description was adjusted and is complete in the Project Description Overview
2. Co-financing distribution was adjusted. Co-financing contribution to PMC is now proportionate compared with GEF contribution to PMC (approximately 9% both)
3. Specific mention to gender related result was included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, within the annual and biannual implementation reports.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

- a) **Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?**
- b) **Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**
- c) **If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 5/14/2024:

5. Cleared.

EBF 4/22/2024:

1. Cleared.
2. Thank you for providing additional information. Cleared.
3. Cleared.
4. Cleared.
5. Thank you for updating the status of the draft resolution to enable the PNTC. Given that it is under consultation and hasn't been approved yet, please reflect on how it could affect the theory of change of the project and its possible pathways.
6.
 - 6.1. Cleared.
 - 6.2. Cleared.
 - 6.3. Is it possible to indicate for how long phase 2 of the Climate Promise project will be under implementation?**
7. Cleared

EBF 3/5/2024:

1. The highlighted text seems to be incomplete. Should it be replaced by "The third NC"? If so, please amend.

iii. National reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

To strengthen international mitigation efforts and enhance transparency in the fight against climate change, the UNFCCC requires its signatory countries to submit reports of their GHG emissions per sector as well as report on the progress of actions implemented to reduce them. In view of these international reporting requirements, Panama has submitted a number of communications to the UNFCCC since ratification.

In 2001, the first National Communication (NC1) was submitted. The NC1 reported on the national GHG emissions levels of 1994, as the common first baseline year 1990 used by many countries was discarded due to political instabilities in Panama at the time. The NC2, prepared ten years later in 2011, reported on the baseline year 2000 and contained a first outline of mitigation strategies and an analysis on capacity and technical needs of the country.

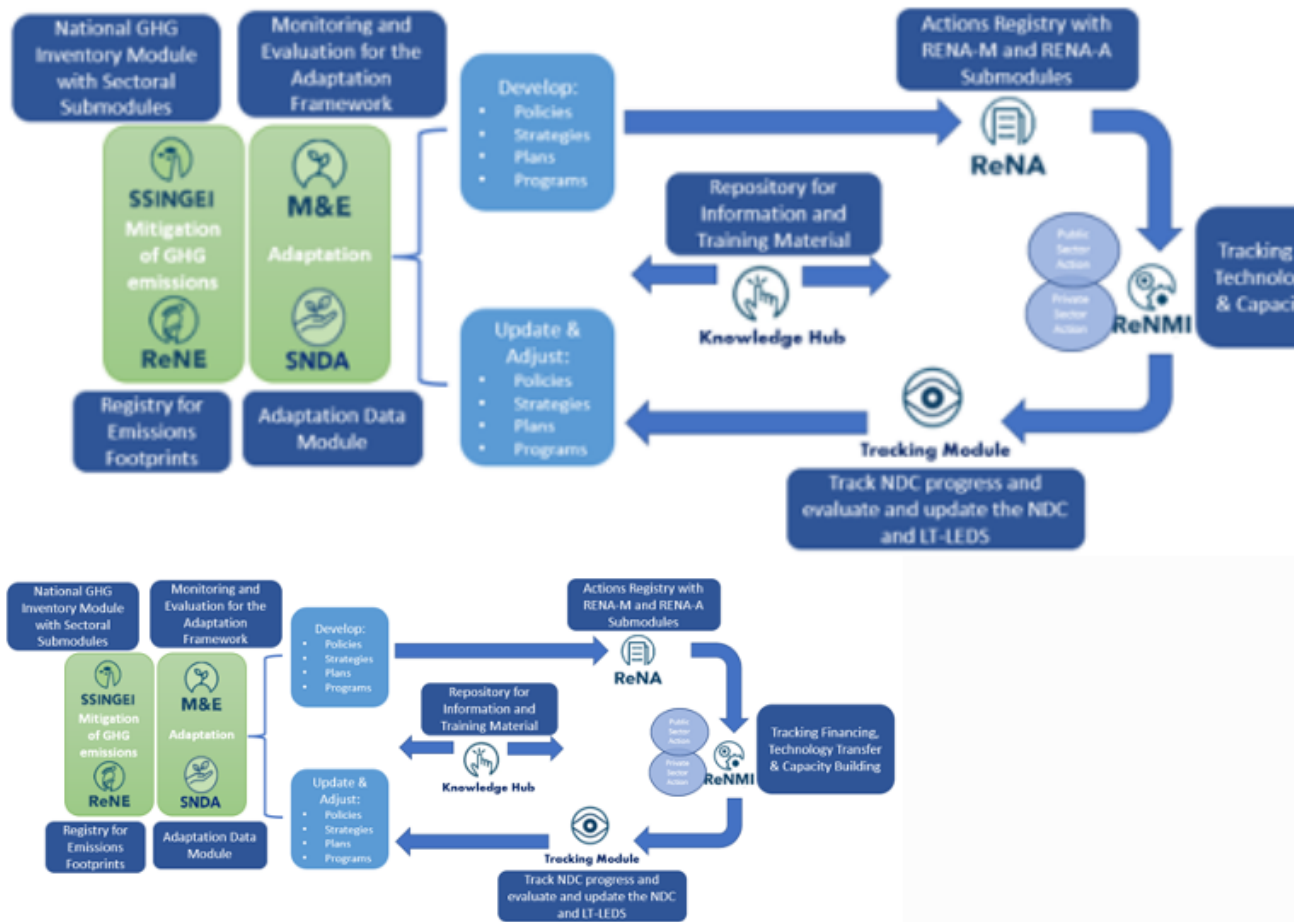
The NC₃ submitted in 2018, includes two inventories for the baseline years 2005 and 2010 and the BUR1 dating to 2019 of Panama includes one inventory for 2013. Moreover, an overview of sectoral mitigation strategies was provided and a preliminary institutional framework including arrangements and climate change policies and legislation was developed. In the NC3 and BUR1, the general structure of institutional arrangements for baseline inventory development is included. However, these reports did not yet describe the specific roles and responsibilities of the entities involved and did not formalize the data flow arrangements between these entities.

2. Understanding that the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) is still under preparation with support from project GEF ID 10953, are there other challenges or lessons learned relevant to the CBIT2 project? Given that this is not a one-off experience and that the country is expected to prepare and submit subsequent BTRs, please further describe the current baseline in terms of BTR preparation.

3. Would it be possible to include an additional column in Table 3 indicating the module's status, e.g., not developed, under construction, operational, or needs to be strengthened? Would it be possible to homogenize the modules mentioned in Table 3 with the first column of Table 7 so it is easier to trace the status of the modules of the PNTC?

4. Table 4 appears twice. The resolution of the first image is not as good as the second. Please correct.

TABLE 4. PNTC MODULES AND INFORMATION FLOWS



Source: Elaborated based on the PNTC Website (<https://transparencia-climatica.miambiente.gob.pa/>)

5. One of the three recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation of the CBIT1 project was the following:

"MiAMBIENTE should take steps to ensure that the proposals for the ministerial resolution and draft framework agreement are formally adopted following the agreed legal procedures"

Can you please elaborate on the status of this ministerial resolution and how it impacts the CBIT2 project and its resiliency?

6. Regarding Table 5:

6.1. The following GCF readiness project (see screenshot below) appears as finalized in Table 5. Yet, a previous paragraph references this project and implies it is still under development,

e.g., "under a GCF readiness framework project called ?Aligning financial flows of the financial sector in Panama with the Paris Agreement climate change goals? approved in 2022, Panama will enhance its capacity for managing and attracting climate finance."

Please ensure the project's status in Table 5 aligns with the abovementioned text.

GCF readiness: Aligning financial flows of the financial sector in Panama with the Paris Agreement climate change goals.	The objective is for Panama to enhance its capacity for managing and attracting climate finance. Key outcomes of the project are to streamline access of accredited entities to GCF funded projects and to develop strategies to increase tracking private sector investment in low emissions activities.	GCF, UNEP as implementing agency.	2022-2024. (finalized)	The project informs the development of the CBIT 2 on climate finance related strategies in the country, particularly on the engagement and incorporation of private sector stakeholders.
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6.2. You mention that a GCF Simplified Access Project (SAP) is under development, which is not mentioned in Table 5. Please correct or clarify. The following is mentioned in the project proposal:

"The GCF SAP Concept Note currently under development will seek to enhance the public investment system to better account for public funding for climate change adaptation. It can be considered a cross-sectional project as it links adaptation and climate finance."

6.3. The status of the "Climate Promise project" by UNDP in Table 5 is unclear:

"Finished (there are other phases that are ongoing, but phase 1, finished)"

We recommend rewording the status to make it explicit if there are additional phases of this project that could be relevant to the CBIT2 project.

7. Regarding the first barrier, please elaborate on what you mean by full institutionalization, e.g., full institutionalization by whom?

*"Overall, the MRV system still requires **full institutionalization** and linkages of the modules as well as capacity-building to close prevalent gaps in data collection, data estimation and reporting quality."*

Agency Response

Response 8/05/2024

5. The ministerial resolution and draft framework agreement are expected to be formally adopted once the legal procedure is completed (public consultation). Legal approval of institutional arrangements will affect the country's ability to gather climate information in a timely and accurate manner, and therefore could reduce the project potential impact in terms of GHG emission reduction and country resilience. A paragraph was included in the theory of change section

6.3 Climate promise initiative will end in 2026.

Response 18/04/2024

1. The text was amended according to suggestion (the third NC)
2. An additional paragraph was included explaining the current baseline of 1st BTR preparation
3. An additional column was added to Table 3 indicating the module's status. Also, modules in Table 3 and Table 7 were adjusted and are consistent.
4. Adjustment was made to reflect Table 4 only once.
5. Regarding recommendations of the Terminal Evaluation of the CBIT1, on ministerial resolution, a sentence was added to reflect the status of ministerial resolutions approval in this section on Institutional Arrangements:
Formal communication sent for internal revision and no comments were received. After internally revised, the all documents be submitted to public consultation. The draft resolutions should now be presented to public consultation, to be approved.
- 6.1 Information on the status of Project "Aligning financial flows of the financial sector in Panama with the Paris Agreement climate change goals" (GCF Readiness) provided in section A.2.iv- Tracking support, was adjusted to be consistent with the information provided on table 5. The project is in its final stage but not finalized yet.
- 6.2- GCF SAP concept Note was draft and is being revised, it is expected to be sent to GCF shortly (within the next two months)
- 6.3 - Status of project "Climate Promise" in Table 5 was adjusted to reflect that the second phase is ongoing.
7. Paragraph mentioning "MRV still requires full institutionalization?" was adjusted to better reflect the barrier: the MRV system still requires strengthening of current institutional arrangements between data providers and MRV management, to ensure timely data submission.

5 B. Project Description

- 5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the thrust and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust solution and listing the key assumptions underlying these?
- b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?
- c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks are properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?
- d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?
- e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?
- f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?
- g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this MSP)?
- h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?
- i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component description/s?
- j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?
- k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?
- l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024:

1. Cleared
2. Cleared
3.
 - 3.1. Cleared
 - 3.2. Cleared
4. Thank you for the explanation. Cleared.
5.
 - 5.1. Cleared
 - 5.2. Cleared

5.3. Cleared

5.4. Cleared

6.

6.1. We take note of the additional text. Yet, it only mentions National Communications and not BTRs, which are more relevant to the ETF and CBIT's mandate. As commented earlier, we encourage you to reflect on how this Component can create the link between the ETF requirements, such as the BTRs, and domestic decision-making.

7. Cleared

8. Noted. Cleared.

9. Cleared.

EBF 3/5/2024:

1. There seems to be a reference error in the text above Table 6; please correct it.

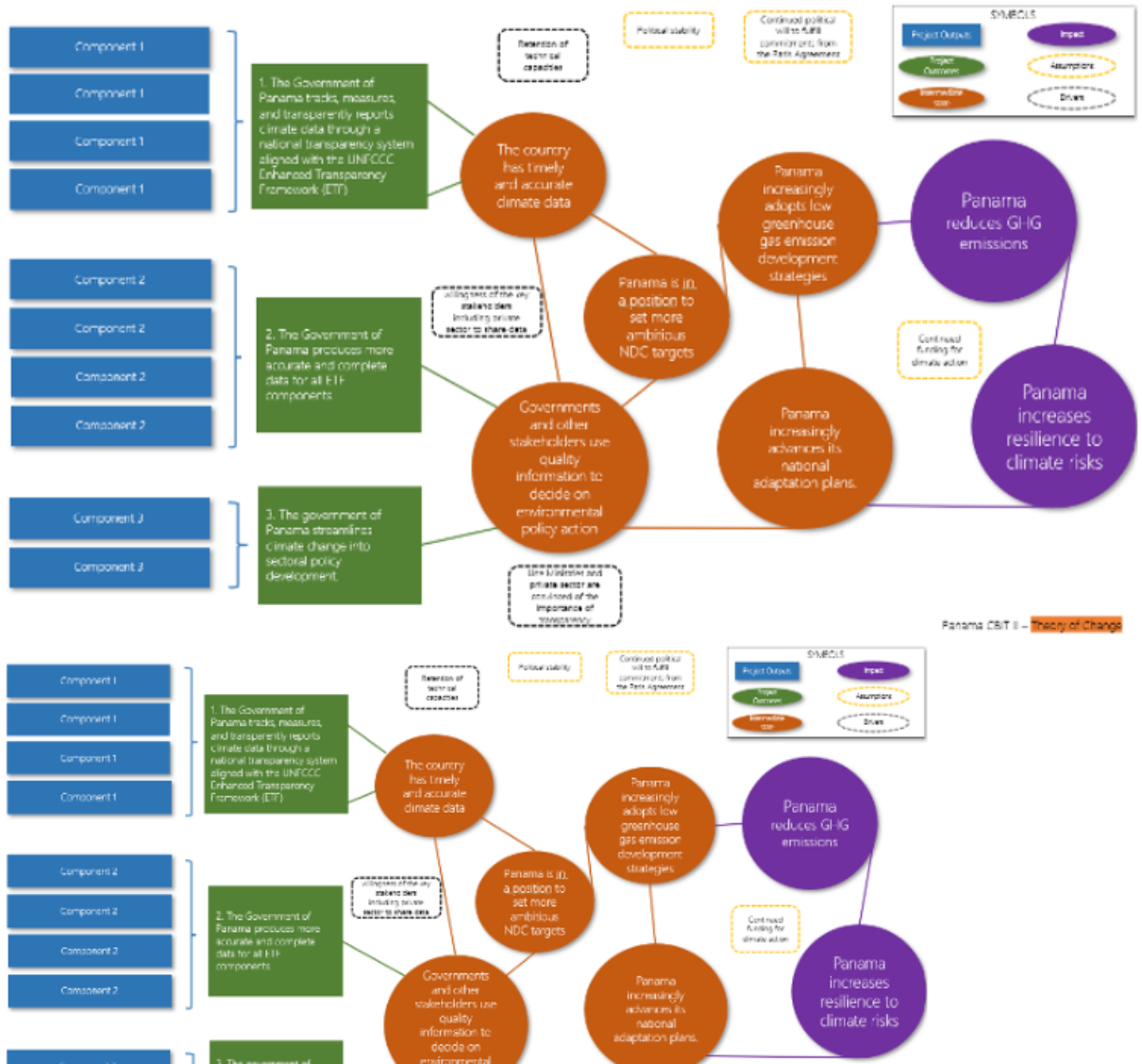
2) Desired transformation and theory of change

The following table maps the barriers presented earlier in this document with the outputs that are part of the project (d further length in the subsections below). It highlights the desired transformation that is expected to stem from intervention. This is the basis for the theory of change that is depicted in [Error! Reference source not found.2.](#)

TABLE 6. DESIRED TRANSFORMATION AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTATION

The current context	Desired transformation of behavior to be achieved through the project
Lack of a fully operational MR	The Government of Panama is able to report under the ETF in a sustainable manner

2. The Theory of Change is pasted twice, and the image's resolution is poor. Please correct.



3. Regarding Table 7,

3.1. Please refer to the comment on the alignment between Table 3 and Table 7 in the project rationale. Ensure that Table 7 is aligned with this comment.

3.2. If possible, please adjust the layout of the columns in Table 7. The current layout makes it difficult to read the text inside some cells.

4. Regarding Component 1:

4.1. [GENERAL] Please explain if the work done under Component 1 will be aligned with the ETF reporting tools, such as the Common Reporting Tables (CRTs) and Common Tabular Formats (CTFs).

4.2. Regarding the Deliverable 1.1.1 PNTC mobile application, briefly explain which data is expected to be collected with it. Is this data for a specific IPCC sector(s) or module(s) of the PNTC?

4.3. The formulation of Deliverable 1.1.3 is unclear. The description in the indicative content alludes to innovative technologies and the long-term financial sustainability of the PNTC. However, it is not conducive to how an analysis of these innovative technologies will contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of the PNTC. Please review this deliverable and amend or clarify as appropriate.

4.4. We welcome that Deliverable 1.1.5 addresses gender-responsiveness and cultural sensitivity. Please explain to what extent the outcomes of the assessment, identification of improvements, and plan under this deliverable will be implemented as part of the PNTC. If possible, explain the link between this deliverable and Output 1.3.

4.5. Regarding Output 1.2, we understand the CBIT1 project also addressed this. Please clarify what the incremental or additional contribution of Output 1.2 would be to avoid overlap.

5. Regarding Component 2:

5.1. [GENERAL] Do the activities under Component 2 plan to engage with civil society organizations? If so, please mention it in the project description.

5.2. Please fix the layout of the column on the right (key stakeholders) of the deliverables in the tables for Outputs 2.1 and 2.3.

5.3. Please explain what is intended to be achieved with the "Reduce Your Water Footprint PNTC module", it seems to be a subset of the "Reduce your Footprint program" focused on water. Please explain how this module is relevant to the CBIT mandate. This module is mentioned as deliverable 2.2.4, but it is not described.

5.4. If Deliverable 2.3.1 is focused on Municipalities, why are they not included as key stakeholders? Please justify or correct.

6. Regarding Component 3:

6.1. In the introduction to this component, there is a brief mention of National Communications. We encourage you to reflect on how this Component can create the link

between the ETF requirements, such as the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), and domestic decision-making.

7. [General comment about the project components] Many deliverables seem to focus on the Ministry of Environment. This was also raised as one of the recommendations in the terminal evaluation of the CBIT1 project. We encourage you to find ways to empower and engage with other relevant stakeholders to collaborate with the Ministry of Environment in a cross-cutting manner. As a starting point, please reflect this comment in the key stakeholder's column of deliverables tables.

8. On cost-effectiveness, please justify the increase in budget for the CBIT2 project compared to its predecessor, CBIT1.

9. The "Core Indicators" and "Risks to Project Implementation" are later addressed in the portal form. Unless there is additional or specific information you would like to highlight, please remove these sections from the project description and use the appropriate sections in the portal form.

Agency Response

Response 8/05/2024

6.1 The paragraph was adjusted to better reflect the link between short and long term information provided by the PNTC, the preparation of ETF reports (mainly National Communications and BTRs) and decision- making at policy level.

Responses 18/04/2024

1. Reference error in the text above Table 6 was corrected.

2. Theory of Change figure was adjusted to be reflected only once.

3. Regarding Table 7,

3.1 - Modules mentioned in Table 3 are aligned to Table 7.

3.2 - Tale 7 columns Layout adjusted

4. 4. Regarding Component 1:

4.1. Yes. Both component 1 and Component 2 will focus on preparing the country for aligning to the ETF electronic reporting tools. In component 1, through Output 1.1 An

enhanced PNTC, being more user-friendly, secure, gender and culturally sensitive, and broad reaching is accessible to stakeholders. And in component 2, specifically for each of the components of the MRV system, and through Outputs 2.1, 2.2 , 2.3 and 2.4. A sentence was added for clarification.

4.2 Definition of specific data to be collected through the mobile application will be part of the design of the mobile application (in the project implementation phase). The application aims at collecting information from data providers, mainly those not centralized in the city of Panama, in particular local communities and private sector representatives involved in mitigation/ adaptation related initiatives, with particular focus on indigenous communities . More detail was added to the indicative content of deliverable 1.1.1.

4.3. Deliverable was adjusted. The financing plan for ensuring long-term sustainability of the PNTC was added as a separate deliverable (D 1.1.6)

4.4 -The deliverable includes the assessment of the PNTC, the identification of improvements and the implementation of those identified improvements (to be carried out within the framework of the CBIT II project). In addition, the deliverable will include the design of an upgrade plan for the platform but will not include its implementation. As part of deliverable 1.1.6 (recently added) the financing plan should consider a financial strategy for implementing the upgrade plan (designed in output 1.1.5) in the near future. Since this deliverable aims at assessing the whole Platform (all the modules), it will also assess, identify and implement recommendations for the knowledge hub module, and therefore it will be linked to Output 1.3

4.5 For the SSINGEI, institutional arrangements for the IPPU and waste sectors are to be determined including roles and responsibilities and data collection protocols (that was not completed during CBIT 1). For LULUCF sector, an improvement plan for data collection of the forestry sector will be developed and implemented, to improve the arrangements established during CBIT 1. Regarding adaptation, and loss and damage monitoring and evaluation framework, the institutional arrangements will be completely developed within CBIT 2. Please refer to table 7 for incremental contribution of CBIT 2.

5.Regarding Component 2:

5.1 Yes. Civil society organizations, private sector and academic institutions are expected to participate in consultations and capacity building activities across component 2. This stakeholders were added to the column "key stakeholders" in each table describing deliverables for each output in component 2 (2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4)

5.2 Tables were adjusted.

5.3 The following paragraph was added to the description of output 2.2, explaining the objective, scope and relevance of Reduce you Water footprint submodule:

As part of de the RENA, a submodule will be created: Reduce you water footprint that will include functionalities to support the management of information of organizations, municipalities and products about their water footprint (entity registration, data registration, footprint calculation, reporting and monitoring), focusing on energy and agriculture. For

Panama, the efficient use of water resources is key both for the operations of the Panama Canal, which helps reduce international emissions due to maritime transport, as well as for energy production, highly dependent on water sources, leading to significant increase in emissions during dry years.

6.Regarding Component 3

6.1 Component 3 aims at integrating climate change information into decision making, through the PNTC. This will be achieved by strengthening the information available in the platform related to climate scenarios, long term strategies, and by training key stakeholders in the use of this information for policy decision. By systematizing and monitoring this data in the platform and making it more widely available and accessible, it will facilitate the preparation on the required reports, such as national communications, as well as improve the accuracy and quality of them. Improve National Communications will also reinforce the accessibility of climate information and its use for policy making. A paragraph was added to reinforce this link.

7. Key Stakeholders for each deliverable were revised, and a broader set of stakeholders were include, to promote collaboration and engagement with the Ministry of finance. This issue is going to be specifically addressed in output 1.4 - A gender- and culturally sensitive stakeholder engagement and communication strategy for the PNTC is designed and implemented with key stakeholders. For this strategy elaboration process, the Technical Climate Change Council will be involved.

8. A paragraph was added to the section cost-effectiveness, to justify the increased budget of CBIT 2 compared to CBIT 1.

CBIT 2 project will increase its ambition over CBIT 1, as it aims to consolidating the PNTC as a centralized climate change data system, including improvement of existing modules implemented through CBIT 1 as well as building new modules (including the National Data system for Adaptation, M&E, tracking Module, Knowledge hub). It also aims at strengthening national capacities with a broader scope, by implementing a long-term capacity-building approach that will be widely accessible to various stakeholders. Finally, CBIT 2 will also strongly address the long-term sustainability of the platform.

9. The "Core Indicators" and "Risks to Project Implementation" sections were removed

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?

b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?

c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024:

1. Cleared
2. Cleared

EBF 3/5/2024:

1. The current CBIT global project, CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), continues the work of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, which concluded implementation in 2020. Please correct the reference in the following sentence. We also encourage Panama to continue engaging with the Regional CBIT-GSP network for Latin America, as well as other participating countries.

"Through this project, Panama will also actively participate in the GEF financed CBIT Global Coordination Platform (implemented by UNEP)."

2. Please include the GCF in the actors' column for the *"Capacity Building to prepare for the implementation of Carbon Markets and Article 6 in Latin America"* project.

	uous.		ingly necessary.
Capacity Building to prepare for the implementation of Carbon Markets and Article 6 in Latin America.	GCF Readiness promotes the generation of knowledge from a regional perspective to provide the participating countries with the institutional, technical, and operational capacities to advance towards the full implementation of Article 6.	Under-Secretariat of International Financial Relations for Development, Secretariat of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of the Nation, Argentina Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Guatemala Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines, Honduras Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, Nicaragua Minister of Environment, Panama (Lead NDA), UNEP 30 months	As this Readiness proposal will provide technical capacities and tools to promote a stronger engagement of national stakeholders public and private- in carbon-based mechanisms that will enable the countries to catalyze climate financing and comply with their climate objectives, it is relevant to link the capacity building approach for the climate finance component of the CBIT 2 with this program.

Agency Response

Response 18/04/2024

1. All references to CBIT Coordination Platform were adjusted to reflect the new CBIT Global Program: CBIT Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)

2. GCF was added to the list of actors in Table 5

5.3 Core indicators

- a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?
- b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024: Cleared.

EBF 3/5/2024: Please explain how Core Indicator 11 was calculated and who will be the project's direct beneficiaries in the text below the core indicators section:

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

[View](#)

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

Agency Response

Response 18/04/2024

Explanation on Core Indicator 11 calculation and beneficiaries was included in the corresponding section.

5.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 5/14/2024: Cleared.

EBF 4/22/2024: In line with our previous comment related to the draft resolution to enable the PNTC. Given that it is under consultation and hasn't been approved yet, we recommend that you integrate it as part of the project risks and identify specific mitigation actions.

EBF 3/5/2024: Cleared.

Agency Response

Response 8/05/2024

Legal approval of institutional Arrangements for the PNTC was included in the risk matrix as:

Risk: Lack of support to establish institutional enabling environment

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or LDCF/SCCF strategy?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024: Cleared.

EBF 3/5/2024:

1. The first sentence in this section may refer to the GEF-7 Focal Area/Non-Focal Area Elements. Please replace the reference to Pillar II (Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies) and objective 2.1 (Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT) of the GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy.

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 plans, and 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), identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

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

This CBIT project addresses the GEF Focal Area Climate Mitigation 3-8 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency”.

Agency Response

Responses18/04/2024

Text was adjusted as indicated.

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request EBF 3/5/2024: Yes, it has been uploaded as part of the agency project document. Cleared.

Agency Response

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024: More information has been provided in Annex L and in the "key stakeholders" column of the deliverables tables under each project output. Cleared.

EBF 3/5/2024: The project refers to the importance of stakeholder engagement but does not provide specific roles of relevant local NGOs, CSOs, local communities, academia etc. Project should provide further information on stakeholders consulted in project design and provide a list of key project's stakeholders, including the role each of them is expected to have in the project and means of engagement and consultations in project implementation.

Agency Response

Responses 18/04/2024

A list of stakeholders consulted during project design is included in Annex L - Table 1. List of participants of the CBIT II proposal validation workshop. An stakeholder engagement plan is also included, indicating for each type of actor / institution the existing activities that can be leverage through the CBIT 2 , as well as the expected engagement and contribution to the project. In addition, during implementation, through Output 1.4 an engagement strategy will be designed and implemented, based on the engagement plan presented in Annex L and on the consultations carried out during output 1.4 execution.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response
8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
a) Is PPG reimbursement requested and if so, is it within the eligible cap of USD 50,000?
b) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response
8.3 Source of Funds
Does the sources of funds table match with the OFP's LOE? Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines? e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared. The co-financing letters are contained in the agency project document.

Agency Response

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestEBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

8.6 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project before the PIF submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.7 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of the budget (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 4/22/2024:

1. Cleared.
2. Cleared.
3. Cleared.
4. Cleared.
5. Cleared.

3/5/2024:

1. Please include a note at the bottom of the Project Results Framework to explain the score used by Indicators B and C.
2. We recommend linking Indicator 1 with Table 7 and making it explicit what will be the incremental contribution of the CBIT2 project compared to the CBIT1 project.
3. We encourage you to raise the ambition of Indicator 1.1; developing a plan for cybersecurity will not guarantee that the PNTC is safe. In line with one of our previous comments, how can Indicator 1.1 reflect on the actual improvement of cybersecurity of the PNTC?
4. Considering that the CBIT1 addressed certain IPCC-relevant sectors, we recommend revising Indicators 1.2 and 2.1 so that they reflect the incremental contribution of the CBIT2 project compared to the CBIT1 project.
5. An indicator about the number of indicators employed by the PNTC to track decision-making under Indicator 3.2 seems odd. We recommend reviewing and improving Indicator 3.2.

Agency Response

Responses18/04/2024

1. A note was included in Annex C- Project Results Framework, explaining score use as baseline for indicators B and C, based on information from CBIT 1 reports

2. Indicator 1 was link with information in table 7, by setting a target referred to specific modules not yet developed (SDNA and RENE). The incremental contribution of CBIT 2 compared to CBIT 1, is detailed in table 7.

3. Implementation of PNTC cybersecurity and contingency plan cannot be ensure within the CBIT 2 project. As a result of the assessment, the specific actions and required budget will be identified. Once this information is provided by deliverable 1.1.2 of the CBIT 2 project, deliverable 1.1.6 will assess and provide a plan for financing this actions. These two deliverables combined will ensure the cybersecurity of the PNTC in the medium term.

Regarding indicator 1.2 and 2.1, the three sectors targeted (IPPU, Waste and LULUCF) are the ones that still need to developed (IPPU, Waste) or finalized (LULUCF) their Institutional arrangements, protocols and methodologies (not achieved in CBIT 1). Please refer to table 7 for details.

5. Indicator 3.2 was adjusted. The revised indicator aims a measuring the progress (in %) in developing the methodology and indicators for tracking the PNTC for policy- making decisions.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.8 Are geo-referenced information and maps provided indicating where the project interventions will take place ?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request EBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.9 Have safeguard screening document and/or other ESS document(s) attached and been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request EBF 3/5/2024: Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.10 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request EBF 3/5/2024:

1. Terms of Reference are provided for the Chief Technical Advisor and the Administrative Assistant in the Agency Project Document. Cleared.

Agency Response

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.11 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.

c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

EBF 5/14/2024: The PM recommends the project for further processing.

EBF 4/22/2024: Please revise the portal form as per the comments provided, highlighting the changes in green for ease of revision.

EBF 3/5/2024: Please revise the portal form as per the comments provided, highlighting the changes in yellow for ease of revision.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	1SMSP CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	3/5/2024	4/18/2024

**1SMSP CEO
Approval**

**Response to Secretariat
comments**

Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2024	5/8/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/14/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		