



## **Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

10071

#### **Project Type**

MSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

#### **Project Title**

Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)

#### **Countries**

Global

#### **Agency(ies)**

FAO

**Other Executing Partner(s):**

FAO

**Executing Partner Type**

GEF Agency

**GEF Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Taxonomy**

Climate Change, Focal Areas, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Information Dissemination, Participation, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, Conference, North-South, Peer-to-Peer

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 2

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**

7/10/2019

**Expected Implementation Start**

11/1/2019

**Expected Completion Date**

10/31/2021

**Duration**

2In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

160,200

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCM-3-8	CBIT	GET	1,686,320	5,200,000
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>1,686,320</b>
				<b>5,200,000</b>

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1.Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)	Technical Assistance	1.1Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data are able to report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity	<p>1.1.1 Upgraded Global FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and tracking process of NDCs designed and implemented.</p> <p>1.1.2. Global set of knowledge and training material on forest-related ETF package developed for and accessed by policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus.</p> <p>1.1.3. Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders organized and executed</p>	GET	727,644	1,200,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF	Technical Assistance	2.1 Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts' in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data	<p>2.1.1. A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF developed for integration with the global forest-related platform.</p> <p>2..1.2. Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points in pilot countries on national forest monitoring systems for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+).</p> <p>2.1.3. Roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency identified and presented</p>	GET	724,320	4,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3.Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF	Technical Assistance	3.1 Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.	3.1.1 Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared.  3.1.2 Outreach and communication products developed, published and disseminated	GET	81,054	
Sub Total (\$)					1,533,018	5,200,000
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	153,302	
Sub Total(\$)					153,302	0
Total Project Cost(\$)					1,686,320	5,200,000



**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,000,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>5,200,000</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Investment will be mobilized by FAO and channeled through investment in the Global Forest resource Assesment (FRA) and from National Monitoring Country Program and UN REDD+ technical assistance.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	1,686,320	160,200
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,686,320	160,200

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	50,000	4,750
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000	4,750

**Core Indicators**

**Indicator 11** Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		50		
Male		110		
Total	0	160	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### **a) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)**

Globally, emissions from Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) accounted for approximately 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. Deforestation and forest degradation currently cause around 10 percent of total carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. At the same time, forests act as a sink and remove one-third of global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Consequently, forests can play a significant role in the mitigation of climate change achievable through the avoidance of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or increase of carbon stocks. Therefore, forest sector is key for achieving the Paris Agreement goals

The forest sector is often the dominant source of emissions in low-income countries with limited industrial bases, commonly generating more than 50 percent of national emissions. At the same time, the sector results in social, environmental and governance benefits contributing to achieve several of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals [SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 6 clean water and sanitation, SDG 13 climate action, and SDG 15 Life on the land].

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report "Global Warming of 1.5°C" highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more. It examines pathways available to limit warming to 1.5°C, what it would take to achieve them and what the consequences could be of taking no action. The report concludes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires both drastic emission reductions as well as removing carbon from the atmosphere. It would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Yet, the role of forests in different pathways vary and the report presents options in which the global forest area will further decrease by 100 million ha (-2.5 percent) or where it would increase by 1 billion ha (+25 percent) by 2050 compared to 2010. However, the pathway suggesting 1.5°C can be met while the net forest area remains stable or decreases slightly, makes large assumptions on high-tech solutions for carbon removals, so-called Bio-Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS). BECCS is untested and risks replacing large areas of natural forest in order to make way for timber plantations for energy. As such, "natural technology" of forests is currently the only proven means of removing and storing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> at a scale that can meaningfully contribute to achieving carbon balance.

The Paris Agreement represents a commitment by the international community to limit the rise of the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius. Terrestrial carbon sequestration, which is mostly happening in forests, is critical to keeping this goal. To meet the global goal, each country has formulated individual climate commitments, referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Land use, and forests in particular, have been identified as a key component of the NDCs expected to provide an estimated 25 percent of emission reductions efforts up to 2030. However, to plan, implement and monitor these reductions, technical support is urgently needed to overcome forest data gaps and improving the quality and transparency of forest related data and information.

FAO's global assessment of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) found that agriculture and land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) are among the most frequently included sectors in countries' mitigation contributions (targets and/or actions), included by 89 percent of countries. The mitigation potential of agriculture and/or LULUCF is prominently acknowledged: 148 countries include agriculture (crop, livestock) and 157 countries include LULUCF in their mitigation contributions from which 120 countries do so under an economy-wide GHG-target and 22 countries only mention actions in the LULUCF sector. Furthermore, among the 131 countries that include priority areas for adaptation and/or adaptation actions related to the agriculture sectors, 97 percent refer to crops and livestock, 88 percent refer to forests and 64 percent refer to fisheries and aquaculture. For planning and implementation of their NDC, countries frequently refer to the need for technical support to develop forest inventories and national planning systems.

REDD+ is an example of a mitigation action in the forest sector with multiple sustainable development benefits, and for which there is considerable momentum for pre-2020 climate mitigation action, and which has been affirmed by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. The recently submitted REDD+ results for Brazil presented in its Biennial Update Report (BUR) REDD+ Technical Annex is an excellent example of this mitigation potential translating into action. Based on the forest reference emission level for deforestation in the Amazonia biome, Brazil measured emission reductions of just over 3 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e between 2011 and 2015. In comparison to the global estimates for 2010, this is a highly significant mitigation action, which conveys well the potential of the forest sector.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement builds on the existing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (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 are also required to establish MRV activities for their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and undertake voluntarily MRV for REDD+. Forest information represents a particular challenge for the reporting, as forests are often located in remote areas and therefore collecting and updating forest information can become logistically challenging and expensive.

The MRV for REDD+ is a two-step process that has and will continue to contribute to the effort towards the transparency framework. For the MRV for REDD+ countries first submit their proposed forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level (FREL/FRL) for technical assessment. Reference levels should be transparent, taking into account historic data and be flexible so as to accommodate national circumstances and capabilities. Secondly, countries will also present their actual results compared to the assessed FREL by submitting a REDD+ technical annex to the BUR (REDD+ results) of a developing countries seeking to obtain and receive payments for results-based actions, and these results undergo a separate technical analysis.

As of May 2019, many achievements under the MRV for REDD+ have been obtained, including 39 countries submitting 45 FREL/FRLs and 8 countries reporting REDD+ results through 10 REDD+ technical annexes to the BUR. For many countries, unprecedented transparency of national forest-sector data and information has resulted from the MRV of REDD+. The FREL/FRLs and REDD+ results provide detailed statistics on countries' forest sectors and important information to inform country policies but also contribute to the transparency framework. The REDD+ technical annex shall be submitted, under the ETF of the Paris Agreement, as an annex to the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) and will go through a technical analysis process.

Article 13 of the Paris Agreement establishes the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for action and support designed to build trust and confidence that all countries are contributing their share to the global effort:

- Transparency of action refers to information each Party has to provide regularly to track progress of the implementation of its NDCs, national greenhouse gas inventory reports, as well as information related to climate change impacts and adaptation.
- Transparency of support refers to clarity on support provided and received for mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. Developed countries should provide information on the support they have provided; meanwhile, developing countries should provide information on support needed and received

Recently at COP 24 the Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement were approved under the Annex to Decision 18/CMA.1 with the following content:

I. Introduction

II. National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases

III. Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

IV. Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

V. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement

VI. Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement

VII. Technical expert review

VIII. Facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress

In the Annex to Decision 18/CMA.1, specifically section II (national inventory report) the relevance of inventory planning, preparation and management while ensuring sufficient data collection is presented (par. 18). Countries shall transparently explain national methods, data and/or parameters selected (par. 22), report methods used and the descriptions, assumptions, references and sources of information used for the emission factors and activity data used to compile the GHG inventory (par. 39), and report information on the reasons for lack of completeness, including information on any methodological or data gaps (par. 45). On the one side, under the transparency framework, robust data collection is at the basis of informing the national inventory report as well as key to track progress made for NDC implementation. On the other side, given the significant mitigation potential, it is timely, and in fact urgent, that we strengthen the transparency of forest data and information within the ETF to translate this potential into action.



For this reason, a country's national forest monitoring system (NFMS) should provide data and information for the MRV of REDD+, the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, and NDC progress reporting to enhance sustainability and consistency. Experience to date in improving the NFMS, and the development of FREL/FRLs, has demonstrated that the NFMS can provide needed evidence for policy-makers to make decisions that support the implementation of strategies for sustainable development, including for the NDCs.

Developing countries' economies are dominated by land use activities based on forestry and the agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture) sectors. These sectors have featured prominently in the INDCs and are among the foremost priorities in countries' mitigation contributions and adaptation objectives. In fact, 89 percent of all countries and 86 percent of all developing countries refer to land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) and/or agriculture (crops and livestock) when outlining their mitigation contributions, and 98 percent of all countries and 93 percent of all developing countries that include priority areas for adaptation and/or adaptation actions, mention forestry and agriculture sectors.

Information provided by several countries in their (I)NDCs indicate concrete areas for undertaking action to address climate change, focusing on, inter alia, renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable transport, carbon capture and storage, conservation and sustainable management of forests and reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> gases. Furthermore, some countries indicate the general role of cooperation related to financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support for implementing domestic measures to achieve the objectives of their INDCs, while other Parties refer to specific areas, including sustainable energy, low-carbon agriculture, biofuels, forest monitoring systems, restoration and reforestation activities and sustainable transport.

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. It focuses on data that will support 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 and the NDCs.

The aim of NFMS is to generate reliable data: i) to support the formulation, monitoring and adjustment of (sub)national level policies related to forests and forested landscapes including, increasingly, development and socio-economic policies; ii) to inform citizens and stakeholders about the status characteristics, services and development of national forest; iii) to facilitate discussions and the development of agreements at the international level and to submit regular reports; and iv) to provide baseline data to enable the measurement of progress towards sustainable forest management (SFM). Strong national capacities are essential to collect, analyze and disseminate forest-related data. In 2010, however, only 45 countries worldwide were able to assess changes in forest area and characteristics through consecutive systematic national forest inventories. A more recent assessment of NFM and reporting capacities in 99 tropical countries was implemented with Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) 2015 data. The total tropical forest area that is monitored with good to very good forest area change monitoring and remote sensing capacities increased from 69 percent in 2005 to 83 percent in 2015. The total tropical forest area that is monitored with good to very good forest inventory capacities increased from 38 percent in 2005 to 66 percent in 2015. Carbon pool reporting capacities did not show as much improvement and the majority of countries still report at Tier 1 level. This indicates the need for greater emphasis on producing accurate emission factors at Tier 2 or Tier 3 level and improved GHG reporting.

Increased recognition of the importance of the role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation has allowed development of related NFMS for MRV of REDD+ which has resulted in an unprecedented increase in the availability and transparency of countries' forest-sector data and information. However, countries still struggle with sustaining these systems and using the information they produce for evidence based policy planning and implementation. Further capacity-building efforts will enable countries to obtain and communicate accurate and reliable forest-related data to refine policies and decisions to track drivers of deforestation, to conserve forests and improve forest management.

#### **b) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

Through the REDD+ and National Forest Monitoring teams, FAO has supported many countries on NFMS resulting in significantly improved national forest monitoring capacity. However, this work needs to be sustained, and expanded to include key African, Latin American, and Asia-Pacific countries with currently deficient inventory systems. FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) has worked with governments since the mid-1940s to collect and compile data on how the world's forests are changing. 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 NCs are reviewed and published by the FAO. The quality of the data reported by the countries in these assessments has steadily improved. However, a number of 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.

The data reported to FRA cover all the thematic elements of the Sustainable Forest Management and FRA is the most comprehensive source of official global forest resource information. FRA data have been used to refine information useful for the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (SAR) 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 time period 1990-2015. The ongoing FRA 2020 process will certainly contribute again with updated global GHG estimates.

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, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action. . Recent COFOs have made several forest monitoring related requests to FAO. The 21st session of COFO, held in September 2012, recommended that FAO continue to support countries to strengthen NFMS and requested FAO to prepare the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring (VGNFM), launched in 2017 in 6 languages. The VGNFM will support Countries in their efforts to set up and strengthen their transparent, reliable and long term NFMS. In order to strengthen the elements and guidelines provided in the VGNFM in the context of REDD+, FAO has developed a working paper highlighting country case studies. The 23 session of COFO, held in July 2016, requested FAO to review the FRA strategy and align to the reporting needs of global processes, aiming at production and dissemination of robust forest physical and socioeconomic information, including by using remote sensing. This request has resulted in thorough revision of the FRA's scope as well as development of improved reporting tools and capacity development modules.

The FRA 2020 process, launched in March 2018, 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. Furthermore,

a new on-line reporting platform has been developed to make reporting of forest-related data easier and transparent. Close involvement of countries through the global network of FRA-NC 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 help shape policy and 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.

During the PPG phase, the FRA-NC were informed and engaged with the CBIT-Forest project through an on-line survey which also served to understand national gaps in forest related information and identify the specific needs of the respondents (details in section 1.4.1.1: Stakeholder Engagement). Main constraints that countries are facing for reporting at national or international level have to do with the lack of necessary and up-to-date data (see also Annex VIII: summary findings from the on- consultation survey).

As highlighted in previous paragraphs, continuous support on forest monitoring is being requested by governments. The support is needed for developing the NFMS as well as sustaining and strengthening it. For many countries, in particular, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and/or Least Developed Countries (LDCs) the development and/or strengthening of their NFMS would give them access to better data and allow evidence based planning and decision making at (sub) national level that will then contribute to respond to global commitments. Furthermore, NFMS will contribute directly to a global effort guided by the MDG for the transparency framework that highlights, in the Annex to decision 18/CMA.1 section II (inventory report), the need for sufficient data collection, choice and development of methods for the preparation of the national inventory report. By increasing countries capacity to monitor their forests, it will also contribute with information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDCs under the Paris Agreement. Section III (Information necessary to track progress) of decision 18/CMA.1 calls specifically for the identification of indicator(s) to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of its NDC. For example indicators could include net GHG emissions and removals, percentage reduction of GHG intensity, relevant qualitative indicators for a specific policy or measure, mitigation co-benefits of adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans or other (e.g. hectares of reforestation, percentage of renewable energy use or production, carbon neutrality, share of non-fossil fuel in primary energy consumption and non-GHG related indicators).

Lastly, the CBIT-Forest project has identified a series of FAO co-financing sources that include the FAO FRA with timeframe 2016-2022 (in-kind US\$ 200,000, grant US\$ 1,000,000) supporting regular activities to be implemented by 2020 and beyond. These activities include compilation of country reports prepared by 186 FRA-NC. FRA will conduct a series of capacity development workshops together with national focal points, as well as regional and international partners. These workshops support production of national, regional and global forest area and area change estimates through remote sensing. In addition, National Forest Monitoring (NFM) country programmes and UN-REDD Technical assistance with timeframe 2008-2020 (grant US\$ 4,000,000) will be also a source of co-financing for CBIT-Forest project aiming to support NFM activities such as the National Forest Inventory (NFI) design, NFI database, fieldwork and NFI analysis (see Annex XI: Co-financing Letter). Countries involved in FAO's NFM activities are Angola, Congo, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Iran, Mongolia, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Brazil and Chile. The UN-REDD technical assistance aimed to support REDD+ implementation in more than 64 partner countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. The UN-REDD program will provide technical assistance to enhance countries' capacity on NFMS and MRV for REDD+, while the CBIT-Forest project will contribute through a coordinated process for global and national forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination to respond to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF). There will be synergies that can benefit both

programs, but not overlaps. UN-REDD will not work on the ETF, but the country support for NFMS and MRV provides a sound basis for specific work on the ETF as described in this project.

The CBIT-Forest project will built on 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 level, helping to raise awareness, deliver capacity building and define knowledge products that will contribute to the Paris Agreement and its transparency framework (see section 1.1.4 The incremental cost reasoning). 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 in the Forestry Department of the FAO are well equipped to lead the implementation of the CBIT-Forest project.

### **c) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

The CBIT-Forest project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

**Objective statement:** To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Successful delivery of global environment benefits through the project will be measured as follows: number of countries with enhanced and more transparent forest-related data and number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (GEF-7 Core indicator 11).

The CBIT-Forest project will achieve benefits and rely on at least one influencing model : strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making. This project will facilitate multi-stakeholder processes that lead to greater ownership of project activities and outcomes.

**Theory of Change:** Through its three complementary and interlinked components, the project will engage high-level and technical government stakeholders involved in the forest sector, to improve data collection, analysis and dissemination, through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities and upgrading of specific products, ultimately contributing to the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. On-going work that forms the baseline will be accelerated by the FAO/GEF project to achieve global environment benefits, through direct interventions, that will enhance both technical capacity (number of beneficiaries: 160; number of countries: 26) and institutional capacity (generate, manage and exchange information and knowledge, engage in networks and partnerships). 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 (FRA-NC) and national (REDD+, NFI coordinators, NFMS focal point, UNFCCC NFP) levels. Global environment benefits are expected to be sustained in the medium to long term thanks to coordinated global and national forest-related on-going 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 scope and nature of the project link it primarily to SDG 15 “Life on Land” and also with Goal 5 “Gender Equality” and Goal 13 “Climate Action”.

The proposed CBIT-Forest project is designed to fulfil and respond to the ETF under the Paris Agreement. The project is in line with the national priorities of the beneficiary countries addressed in their NDCs and will also support the current reporting process under the UNFCCC, mainly through the provision of forest-related data that can be used to prepare a robust national GHG inventory to be included in their NCs, BURs and National Inventory Report (NIR) under the current MRV framework, but now also to the reporting of the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the ETF. Hence, it will also contribute to better planning of their mitigation actions to be implemented for the NDCs. For REDD+ countries, the project outcomes will contribute to the collection of forest-related activity data and emissions factors that will serve to submit forest reference (emission) levels and the REDD+ technical annex to the BUR and now also to the BTR. Forest reference (emission) levels are instruments for countries to track their NDCs in the forest sector.

The CBIT-Forest project will maximise impact by leveraging FAO’s already existing partners (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 the CBIT Coordination platform to collaborate with other implementing agencies. The project will also explore approaches to scaling up in collaboration with partners.

The project is linked to the GEF-7 focal area “Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)”, particularly with Objective 3 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies”. Specifically, it applies to CCM3-8 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency”. The CBIT-Forest project is also aligned to Programming Directions for the CBIT (see section 1.2.2: Alignment to GEF priorities).

The next section will describe the project components, outcomes and outputs of the CBIT-Forest project. Updates from the PIF to the project document are reported in Annex XII.

### **Project components and outcomes**

**Component 1:** Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)

To contribute to the development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency, and on building capacity; elaborating on existing materials (GEF Programming Directions par. 21b), regional and global capacity building programs to enhance transparency (GEF Programming Directions par. 21d) and knowledge management on transparency-related initiatives (GEF Programming Directions par. 21i), the CBIT-Forest project proposes three project outputs that include the upgrade of the already existing FRA reporting platform, a package of knowledge and training materials and regional workshops.

Since 2005, the FRA reporting has been based on a global network of officially nominated FRA-NC who collect and compile data from national sources and report to FRA. This network is the backbone of FRA and allows access to the best available official and most recent information about forest resources from all countries and territories. The reporting

is being done through a new on-line platform that allows FRA-NC to enter national data according to a standardized format. Data sources used, national classifications and definitions are added together with the original data, which ensures transparency in the reported data. In addition, the FRA platform helps to facilitate the review process, which in turn contributes to increased transparency.

The CBIT-Forest project will finance the design and implementation of a number of additional functionalities/modules to the existing FRA reporting platform (output 1.1.1). The additional functionalities aim at improving access to key forest-related data and information at the country level, in a user-friendly manner (see also section 2.6 Information Technology). To develop this alternative scenario, GEF-CBIT will finance the upgrade of the current FRA reporting platform, which will contain country specific data and information on the state of their forest resources uploaded by the officially nominated FRA-NC. The improved FRA reporting platform will enhance the transparency of forest-related reporting in a number of ways. First, it will provide the tools and functionality for storing original statistical data in the system and provide users with a fully transparent means of converting national land use/land cover classes to FRA reporting classes. Second, the platform provides tools for inter- and extrapolation of key forest attributes as well as for biomass and carbon estimation using the reported data. Third, the platform will provide explicit links to the information of other reporting processes. Finally, it will contain a section, which will provide countries immediate access to geospatial repositories containing the latest freely available satellite imagery and forest information products, as well as related tools and processing capacity, in a user-friendly manner. Regularly updated and public availability of forest-related data through the FRA reporting platform will support global and country efforts in meeting the enhanced transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement. Consequently, supporting collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data and information will also indirectly contribute to ensuring a robust assessment of forest-related GHG emissions and removals for forests.

For the upgrade of the global FRA reporting platform (output 1.1.1) a series of activities that include the identification and selection of functionalities/modules for inclusion; the implementation and testing of new functionalities/modules; and the collection of user experiences from implementing new functionalities/modules will be implemented (see Annex III: Workplan). Output 1.1.1 will be complemented by outputs 1.1.2 and outputs 1.1.3, since these later outputs will promote transparency as well as build and maintain institutional capacity in countries, through the existing global network of FAO's FRA-NC covering 186 countries and territories.

To contribute to transparency-related activities and enhance capacity of governmental officials in the use of the upgraded FRA reporting platform and the importance of forest-related data to support decision-making and comply with the ETF, a global package of knowledge and training material to build capacity and raise awareness of policymakers and technical experts is planned (Output 1.1.2). Activities that will be implemented include the collection and review of forest-related material linked to the ETF; the identification and organization of the content (key messages); the development of training modules for high-level governmental officials and technical target audiences in different languages (English, Spanish and French) with different regional focus; and the development of awareness raising material for policymakers/technical experts in different languages (e.g. infographics, flyer, info booklet) with gender equality emphasised (see Annex III: Workplan). The package of knowledge and training material will be used during regional/national workshops (outputs 1.1.3, 2.1.2). The development of a self-paced and/or instructor-led/facilitated e-learning course for transparency-practitioners can be considered for future activities.

To ensure exchange of knowledge among high-level governmental officials and technical experts, the CBIT-Forest project will support regional awareness raising and capacity-building meetings on the importance of forest-related data to assist improvement of transparency over time. During the PPG phase, the FRA team has identified the Mesoamerican

region (LAC), Central African (Africa) and Southeast (Asia) regions for the workshops to be held in Spanish, French and English, respectively. These workshops will involve high-level governmental officials of the forest sector, including FAO's FRA-NC global network, which will be fundamental to respond to the ETF. FRA-NC oversee data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data in the country. FRA-NC and their alternates as well as other collaborators who are involved in the FRA reporting have a key role in interaction with national stakeholders such as Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forestry as well as Agencies involved in the preparation and/or reporting to the UNFCCC and/or Paris Agreement. Therefore, raising awareness among FRA-NC and their collaborators will have a high political and technical impact, which will help the countries to move towards the ETF under the Paris Agreement.

For the regional workshops (output 1.1.3) a series of activities that include the development of a training programme; the preparation of a concept note following FAO's capacity development principles and encouraging women's participation; and running the regional workshops will be implemented (see Annex III: Workplan). During the regional workshops, a stocktaking assessment will be performed that will consider gender aspects and user survey on how official forest-related data are collected and reported to FRA at national and international level. This survey will be conducted during the regional high-level meetings to better understand the overlaps and gaps between FRA-NC and national stakeholders involved in different aspects of the transparency framework. In order to strengthen the linkage between the FRA-NC and national stakeholders in Ministries involved in UNFCCC/Paris Agreement reporting, the latter will be involved in the regional awareness and capacity-building activities.

FAO will ensure that capacity-building activities and training materials on topics related to the ETF are fully in line with the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPG) of the Paris Agreement.

During the project preparation grant (PPG) phase comprehensive stakeholder mapping has been carried out, considering gender aspects, and which is informing a stakeholder engagement plan, clarifying roles and means of engagement of all stakeholders (see Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix). Specific consultation activities included:

- i) technical consultations, meetings and interviews with FAO experts in Head Quarters from the FAO's FRA and NFM teams from the Forestry Department, including FAO regional and country offices to determine specific activities to achieve proposed outcomes;
- ii) technical consultation with gender experts, indigenous peoples, and partnerships experts from FAO to define and clarify specific issues during the consultation process; and
- iii) interviews with international key partners, such as the GFOI and IPCC to increase awareness and get feedback on project activities.

In addition, a validation process to review and verify/endorse the project design was carried out with the FRA global networks (e.g. official FRA-NC). This was done through an on-line survey, and information on gaps and barriers was also collected (see Annex VIII: Summary findings). This information will be complemented during the project with a stocktaking assessment where selected tools for capacity development assessment will also be considered.

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Section 2.4 of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing and cost on this topic.

Expected outcome: Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data are able to report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity.

Indicators of success: Degree of increased institutional capacity on the enhanced transparency framework (Target: quality indicator that goes from 0 to 1 – using mixed methodologies, including interviews, reports, workshops proceedings etc.); and number of national institutions in targeted countries with the ability to respond to the enhanced transparency framework (Target: quality indicator that goes from 0 to 1 –using mixed methodologies).

Expected outputs:

1.1.1 Upgraded Global FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and tracking process of NDCs designed and implemented.

1.1.2 Global set of knowledge and training material on forest-related ETF package developed for and accessed by policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus.

1.1.3 Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders organized and executed.

The Workplan in Annex III provides details on the planned activities and timing for the delivery of quality products and results.

**Component 2:** Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF

50. To contribute to regional and global capacity building programs to enhance transparency (GEF Programming Directions par. 21d), the CBIT-Forest proposes three project outputs that include a global forest field observation repository, regional/national capacity-building activities and a roadmap for the continued enhancement of forest-related transparency with pilot countries (see Annex VII).

51. Information collected over the past 20 years through FAO NFI remains largely under-utilized. Many countries and biomes remain poorly represented by forest field data, which seriously inhibits national and international efforts to understand, measure and manage forests and their carbon stock. In many countries, FAO has supported NFI, however, the information collected would be much more useful if it were combined, harmonized, and standardised in a single global repository of forest field observations. Data for this repository would be obtained from national forest inventories. The development of a global repository would be a significant contribution to global needs to understand and enhance forest carbon stocks under the Paris Agreement, and for tracking global efforts for NDC reporting. The CBIT-Forest project will develop a repository that will contribute directly to enhance collaboration and data sharing among FRA-NC and other forest-related stakeholders (NFI coordinator or NFMS coordinator) and indirectly with the need to measure and report forest-related data toward the ETF.

Data from national forest inventories, which is collected, analysed and disseminated could largely contribute to the transparency framework not only for improved estimation of emissions and removals but also to global processes such as the IPCC Emission Factor Database (EFDB) and the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National



Greenhouse Gas Inventories and beyond. Specific contribution from FAO to updating emissions factors for aboveground biomass in the 2019 Refinement (Volume 4 Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use: Chapter 4 on Forest Lands) was provided thanks to national forest inventories.

During project implementation, the CBIT-Forest will work with pilot countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Thailand and Laos) to collect, analyse, clean and upload NFI data in the 'repository functionality' of the already existing "Links & Repository" module from the FRA reporting platform (output 2.1.1) (see also section 2.6 Information Technology). The project will perform activities that includes collect NFI data; analyse and clean NFI data and upload NFI data and metadata in the repository (see Annex III: Workplan).

To contribute to the establishment and enhancement of transparency, regional/national capacity-building on NFMS is urgently needed. This CBIT-Forest project proposes technical regional/national capacity-building activities aiming to improve data reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data and provide technical assistance to implement NFMS for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes such as the NDCs and REDD+ (output 2.1.2). Workshops, high level meetings, conferences, dialogues, on-the job learning etc. are some of the activities foreseen and will be combined with country needs and gaps assessments on NFMS and transparency-related activities. Specifically, output 2.1.2 will provide the basis for a coordinated and a comprehensive monitoring approach that integrates remotely-sensed data with field measurements and observations for improved NFMS that will inform both global (e.g FRA) and national (NDC, REDD+) processes. The project will perform activities that include defining and consulting with pilot countries; carrying out capacity-building needs and gap assessments (to be defined based on interest from countries); designing capacity-building activities; and implementing technical capacity-building activities with gender aspects considered (see Annex III: Workplan).

In addition, activities that will be implemented under output 1.1.3 (global level) will complement the efforts that are envisaged under output 2.1.2 activities (national level – pilot countries). FRA-NC will be trained under output 1.1.3 but also linked to a technical process at national level (output 2.1.2) aiming to enhance both technical and institutional (functional) capacities needed for an improved NFMS and to link both global and national forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes.

Further, countries that are interested in global activities under the CBIT-Forest project and have a national CBIT proposal could also benefit from output 2.1.2 participating in the technical regional/national capacity-building initiatives. The participation in activities from output 2.1.2 can be funded by their national CBIT projects, where applicable, or by other national projects where FAO is providing technical support (UN-REDD, NFM etc.) as well as national funds.

Through output 2.1.2 the role of governmental counterparts will be to assess gaps and needs to design and/or improve and/or implement a NFMS. At national level, research institutions, universities and/or civil society will also benefit from improved transparency, which will also support and strengthen research and decision making in the country.

A roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency will be developed (output 2.1.3). This assessment will aim to get information on how to improve the exchange of information, data, analysis, etc. among different levels and areas of government to support transparency-related processes. In addition, this assessment will assist improvement of transparency over time and contribute with compliance of approved modalities, procedures and guidelines for the ETF. The review of already existing NFM assessment and production of the road map are foreseen (see Annex III: Workplan).

During the PPG phase, a comprehensive country mapping and assessment has been carried out, specific activities included:

i) preparation of a matrix, where information on the different candidate countries from Africa, Asia and the LAC regions were assessed; around 40 countries were assessed through different indicators including i) forest-related data collection and analysis processes (National Forest Inventory, use of Open Foris/Sepal, response to the on-line survey), ii) reporting status to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement (reference levels, BUR, REDD+ technical annex and NDC submissions), iii) FAO staff based in the country with on-going collaboration or activities;

ii) technical consultations and meetings with FAO regional and country offices to obtain their perspectives on project activities and on the possible candidate countries, and

iii) teleconferences with pilot countries involving all key and relevant forest-related stakeholders, including FRA-NC, REDD+ focal points, NFI/NFMS coordinators, UNFCCC NFP to present the CBIT-Forest project and get their expression of interest and collect any concerns. A list of candidate pilot countries is available in Annex VII.

All information gathered will be complemented with a capacity-building needs and gap assessment of the organisations involved (looking at the mandates, roles, priorities, motivation and incentive systems, strategic leadership and inter-institutional linkages, processes, systems and procedures, human and financial resources and knowledge and information aspects) and the skills, competencies, attitudes, behaviour and values of the individuals in these institutes. For the latter, the Knowledge, Attitudes, Practice Survey (KAP) tool will be used. This will look particularly at (i) the knowledge of individuals and groups on sustainable natural resource management, (ii) the change in attitudes as a consequence of acquiring knowledge, and (iii) the change in practices as a consequence of applying the knowledge.

The outcomes of the capacity-building needs and gap assessment and the KAP will inform the project team of pilot countries, and a targeted capacity-building strategy can be developed in order to address these technical and institutional (functional) gaps and weaknesses.

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Section 2.4 of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing and cost on this topic.

Expected outcome: Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts' in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data.

Indicators of success: Number of countries with demonstrated increased capacity (Target: quality indicator that goes from 0 to 1 –using mixed methodologies capacity development gaps & assessments; end of work capacity survey).

Expected outputs:

2.1.1 A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF developed for integration with the global forest-related platform.

2.1.2 Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points in pilot countries on national forest monitoring systems for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+).

2.1.3 Roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency identified and presented.

The Workplan in Annex III provides details on the planned activities and timing for the delivery of quality products and results.

### **Component 3: Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF**

To contribute with the development and sharing of best practices on establishing and enhancing transparency (GEF Programming Directions par. 21b), and to facilitate exchange between transparency practitioners and experts of experiences and lessons learned (GEF Programming Directions par. 21e), the CBIT-Forest project proposes two project outputs that include the identification and sharing of the best practices and/or case studies and development of outreach and communication material.

The CBIT-Forest project will finance the identification; documentation and sharing of case studies and/or best practices on successful forest transparency-related activities (output 3.1.1). Infographic booklets will be developed and presented during global CBIT meetings organized, where applicable, by the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and/or the FAO CBIT-AFOLU global project as well as with other key forest-related platforms such as the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI). The project will perform activities that include the identification and analysis of information regarding the case studies/best practices; documentation and development of communication material; and disseminate them in already existing global platforms (see Annex III: Workplan)

To ensure knowledge management outreach and communication products such a communication strategy and toolkit including press releases, newspaper articles, videos and web-stories will be developed and published (output 3.1.2).

FAO has gained knowledge through all their projects and programmes related to Measurement, reporting and verification, including REDD+. Therefore, by engaging in this continuous capitalization process, FAO is strengthening its capacities for better results and impact. In this sense, knowledge sharing and capitalization of case studies/ best practices, with the CBIT-Forest project, will have a role in strengthening countries' capacity on the ETF. If practices are systematically analysed, documented and shared, transparency-related practitioners can adapt what works well and understand why. Thus, they can replicate and scale-up identified best practices/case studies in order to inform policies and implement programs effectively.

The avenues used to disseminate project results will be multiple and tailored to different audiences, ranging from a more technical audience through the publication of info graphic booklets with case studies and participation in relevant CBIT coordination meetings, to a more blended target audience for which shorter communication pieces will be prepared such as project brochures, infographics and more. Dissemination to relevant partners will occur via events, mailing lists, social media and other channels.

During the PPG phase, sharing of information with donors and engagement with relevant partners working on CBIT took place during the 'Third technical workshop on CBIT implementation' held in Rome from 22-23 May 2019 (see section 2.2: Coordination with other initiatives). FAO had the opportunity to share information on support provided to reporting with more than 35 countries from Asia, Africa and LAC participating to this meeting. As per May 2019, UNDP, UNEP and Conservation International were identified as key for enhancing collaboration on global and national CBIT work. The Initiative for Climate Action Transparency, ICAT (<https://climateactiontransparency.org/>) and UNEP-DTU Partnership (<http://www.unepdtu.org/>) are also other transparency-related institutions identified for collaboration during CBIT-Forest project implementation.

Project progress and results will be duly recorded onto a dedicated webpage hosted by FAO in English, Spanish and French. However, the CBIT coordination platform web page (<https://www.cbitplatform.org/>) will be a key vehicle to disseminate the development of activities and products, benefitting from the link to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) platform.

This component includes regular project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Section 2.4 of this document provides all the details in terms of content, purpose, responsibility, timing and cost on this topic.

Expected outcome: Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.

Indicators of success: Number of times practitioners accessing case studies/best practices (Target: at least 200), and Number of times practitioners accessing outreach/dissemination products (Target: at least 400).

Expected outputs:

3.1.1 Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared.

3.1.2 Outreach and communication products developed, published and disseminated.

78. The Workplan in Annex III provides details on the planned activities and timing for the delivery of quality products and results.

**During PPG a number of outcomes and outputs have been reworded or shortened. The project is strongly aligned with the PIF. The table below highlight changes made (cf. Annex XIII of the project document):**

Results matrix in PIF	Results matrix in CER	Justification
Project Objective: To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries, through a coordinated global and national forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination process, to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and contribute with information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving the nationally determined contributions	To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.	Shortened
Component 1		
Outcome 1.1 Improved institutional capacity of FRA National Correspondents to respond to the ETF requirements achieved	Outcome 1.1 Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data are able to report and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity.	Rephrased

Output 1.1.1. Upgraded FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and track process of NDCs designed and implemented.	Output 1.1.1. Upgraded Global FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and tracking process of NDCs designed and implemented.	Added word “global”
Output 1.1.2. Global set of knowledge and training material package to raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to support country decision making and to comply with the ETF requirements developed for policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus (global, regional).	Output 1.1.2 Global set of knowledge and training material on forest-related ETF package developed for and accessed by policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus.	Shortened
Output 1.1.3 Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders on the importance of forest-related data to assist improvement of transparency over time organized and executed (link with output 2.1.2).	Output 1.1.3 Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders organized and executed.	Shortened
Component 2		
Outcome 2.1 Enhanced technical capacity to improve data in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data in line with national priorities and compliance with the ETF achieved.	Outcome 2.1 Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data.	Rephrased
Output 2.1.1 A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF compiled for integration to the global forest-related platform (output 1.1.1).	Output 2.1.1 A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF developed for integration to the global forest-related platform.	Replaced a verb
Output 2.1.2 Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points-building activities (e.g. workshops, high level meetings, conference, dialogues, on-the job learning etc.) on national forest monitoring systems (NFMS) for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+) implemented (link with output 1.1.3).	Output 2.1.2 Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points in pilot countries on national forest monitoring systems for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+).	Shortened

Output 2.1.3 Roadmap on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency to meet transparency requirements identified in line with the ETF requirements to assist improvement of transparency over time.	Output 2.1.3 Roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency identified and presented.	Rephrased
Component 3		
Outcome 3.1: Increased dialogue and knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts	Outcome 3.1: Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.	Eliminated a word
Output 3.1.1 Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared with global CBIT initiatives (CBIT Global Coordination Platform, CBIT-AFOLU) and other key forest partnerships (e.g. GFOI).	Output 3.1.1 Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared.	Shortened
Output 3.1.2 Outreach and dissemination products (e.g. press release, newspaper articles, web-stories) of best practices and case studies developed and published.	Output 3.1.2 Outreach and communication products developed, published and disseminated.	Rephrased

It should be noted that minor adjustments have been made to the GEF grant distribution over the different technical components. The table summarizes these changes, which are the result of a detailed costing of activities (cf. Annex IV of the project document).

Component	GEF Project Financing at PIF stage (USD)	GEF Project Financing at CER stage (USD)
Component 1: Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)	702,806	727,644
Component 2: Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF	676,837	724,320

Component 3: Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF	153,375	81,054
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**d) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies**

The CBIT-Forest project is aligned with GEF-7 focal area “Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)”, particularly with Objective 3 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies”, CCM 3-8 “Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency”. The CBIT-Forest project components (1, 2 and 3) are aligned with the activities stipulated in the Programming Directions for the CBIT, paragraph 21.

Further detail is provided under point b. (Baseline scenario and associated baseline programs) above.

**e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCE, SCCF, and co-financing**

This CBIT-Forest project aims to consolidate global and national efforts 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 including the enhancement of the REDD+ process 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.

The CBIT-Forest project will provide specific added value in aspects described in this section. Data transparency is fundamental for the establishment of global trust and confidence in the progress as it shows that all countries are contributing to the global efforts under the Paris Agreement. The CBIT-Forest will enhance the capacity of the forest sector in relation to data, and, therefore, to help and ensure robust forest-related GHG emissions and removals estimates and to make well-informed decisions, and to design and implement effective NDCs over time. In addition, this project will also increase transparency along with comparability and consistency of forest data among countries by: i) upgrading the existing FRA reporting platform to report forest-related data, and ii) leveraging FAO’s FRA-NC global network (=186 countries and territories) to raise awareness of the ETF. Capacity-building activities of this global proposal will increase data availability thus triggering both global and national actions to improve National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS). Finally, this global proposal will also share lessons learned among transparency- practitioners, which is a good vehicle by which to enhance national capacities.

In addition, project activities will build on and complement already existing activities being implemented by FAO that support national forest monitoring, UN-REDD and the FRA. Moreover, the project will ensure knowledge-sharing with relevant transparency-related initiatives, including coordination with the two global CBIT proposals: i) Global

capacity-building towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector (CBIT-AFOLU) (GEF ID: 9864); ii) CBIT Global Coordination Platform (GEF ID: 9675), including its second phase (GEF ID: 10128). The CBIT-AFOLU will share a set of global tools, templates and guidelines to respond to mitigation and adaptation transparency related requirements, while CBIT-Forest will enhance capacity of countries to collect, analyse and disseminate forest-related data through an existing global network of FRA-NC. The CBIT coordination platform will provide the opportunity to enhance coordination and the sharing of best practices through global coordination meetings and a web-based platform. Detailed information on the baseline, co-financing, GEF support and financing is provided in the next paragraphs.

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:** Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

Baseline and co-financing: As the FAO's FRA team is leading the FRA 2020 reporting and subsequent processes at the global level; therefore, the baseline is the in-kind support and grant from the FAO-FRA. The FAO-FRA total contribution is of USD 1,200,000 which includes the provision of staff and implementation of activities 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 platform and capacity-building activities, including the development of knowledge and training material on ETF related to the forest sector. The GEF grant is of US\$ 727,644.

**Component 2:** Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF.

Baseline and co-financing: As the FAO's National Forest Monitoring (NFM) team is supporting countries on their NFMS, the baseline is the grant from FAO-NFM country programmes and UN-REDD Technical Assistance, which will coordinate activities and ensure complementarity. The FAO-NFM total contribution is of USD 4,000,000.

GEF support and financing: The FAO-GEF will finance the incremental cost in order to achieve a number of direct benefits in terms of enhanced technical capacity to improve data reporting, accuracy and consistency to comply with the transparency framework. The GEF project will also cover the cost of activities that lead to changes in attitude and behavior, directly contributing to the achievement of Global Environmental Benefits (GEB), and increasing the potential for scaling up and out. With the baseline focus on MRV for REDD+, the GEF project will cover the cost of activities that will support moving from the MRV to the ETF with pilot countries and improve the integration and consistency with international reporting processes through capacity building activities. The GEF grant is of US\$ 724,319.

**Component 3:** Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF

GEF support and financing: The FAO-GEF project will focus on sharing knowledge on successful transparency-related best practices and case studies from the forest sector and prepare outreach and communication material that will be disseminated through a number of existing channels such as the CBIT Coordination platform (baseline). The cost of this component is of US\$ 81,054.



In sum, minor amendments as compared to the PIF:

Component	Incremental cost-reasoning at PIF stage	Incremental cost-reasoning at CER stage
Component 1	FAO-FRA co-financing: USD 760,000	FAO-FRA co-financing: USD 1,200,000 · in kind: USD 200,000 · grant: USD 1,000,000
Component 2	FAO-NFM country programmes and UN-REDD Technical Assistance co-financing: USD 4,000,000	No changes

f) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The CBIT-Forest project will ultimately contribute to strengthening transparency, comparability and consistency, through outcomes that will ensure coordinated global and national forest-related initiatives, to better respond to the transparency requirements and more effectively track NDCs. 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. Accurate and consistent forest-related data will directly contribute with the preparation of national GHG inventories and to the consistent reporting of the BUR, NC and REDD+ Technical Annex to the BUR, including the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) under the Transparency Framework guided by the recently approved Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs).

There is evidence that the CBIT-Forest 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 make a contribution 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.

#### g) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

##### **Innovation**

The CBIT-Forest project proposes to involve for the first time relevant high-level government stakeholders (FAO's FRA national correspondent network) that will contribute to forest-related data processes, and involve them in reporting under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Institutional arrangements will be enhanced in order to contribute to both national (NFMS) and global (FRA) processes that are related to forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination. This approach will enhance data accuracy, transparency, and consistency of international reporting processes under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, therefore, contributing to the Transparency Framework.

An innovative aspect of the CBIT-Forest project is the coordination between the FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) team and the National Forest Monitoring (NFM) team, which provides technical in-the-field support to many countries, to jointly work towards accurate and transparent forest information. Up to now in many countries global and national processes have not been connected, hence the use of FAO's network and the focus on institutional arrangements will bring an innovative approach to contribute to the transparency framework and tackle consistency in forest-related data reporting. This type of approach, which deals not only with technical issues but considers supporting institutional arrangements while facilitating dialogue among key stakeholders and using already existing networks, could be replicated.

##### **Sustainability**

Diverse activities related to raising awareness, capacity development and knowledge sharing among transparency-related practitioners, targeting key high-level government stakeholders and technical forest-related stakeholders at global (FRA-NC) and national (REDD+, NFI coordinator, NFMS focal point, UNFCCC NFP) level will ensure sustainability of the project. 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 an upgraded FRA reporting platform has its value in increasing sustainability overall through the provision of global forest-related data. The CBIT project will ensure that the outcomes of the project are incorporated in regular communication and follow-up processes under FRA 2020 and beyond.

Both FAO's FRA and NFM teams have established partnerships for on-going and/or already existing country support, including among different stakeholders such as research institutes and local universities. Therefore, the CBIT-Forest project will benefit from those partnerships, which will contribute to institutionalize capacity building. In addition, the CBIT-Forest project will explore the best mechanism to raise awareness among young foresters by engaging the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA), a worldwide platform of students that will be then able to contribute with forest-related global/national processes.

##### **Potential for scaling up**

This proposal has a lot of potential to scale up activities both at global and national levels. Specifically, the functionalities/modules can be further expanded based on the needs and feedback received from countries and transparency-related practitioners (link to output 1.1.1). To ensure continuous support and capacity development, the development of a self-paced and/or instructor-led/facilitated e-learning course for key themes of interest for transparency-practitioners can be considered based on material that will be generated through this project and following guidance from FAO for designing and developing such material (<http://www.fao.org/3/i2516e/i2516e.pdf>) (link to output 1.1.2 & output 1.1.3).

After completion of the FRA 2020 process, data could contribute to the assessment of national forest monitoring and reporting capacities, and updated global GHG emission and removal estimates for forests.

The lessons learnt from the CBIT-Forest project will help to further global and national understanding of how to best deal with forest data collection, analysis and dissemination and also contribute to the transparency framework in the coming years (link to output 1.1.3, output 2.1.1 and output 2.1.2). A roadmap for potential scaling-up for continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency will contribute to the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework (link to output 2.1.2 & output 2.1.3).

During the PPG phase, key global stakeholders related to the forest sector were informed and feedback obtained (see section 2.2 Coordination with other initiatives and Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix,). During implementation of the CBIT-Forest project we will explore approaches to scaling up in collaboration with partners.

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

Global - N/A

#### **1c. Child Project?**

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

N/A

#### **2. Stakeholders**

**Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:**

**Civil Society Organizations**

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities**

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

During the PPG phase, a Stakeholder Engagement Matrix was prepared and presented in Annex II of the project document. In addition, a large consultation process took place with FAO FRA National Correspondents network, results are provided in Annex VIII of the project document.

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

**Section 1.4.1** of the project document zooms in on the stakeholder engagement process and mechanism, with a detailed description of the grievance mechanism and disclosure and partnerships. The project document also refers to the environmental and social screening (low risk project).

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan can be found in Annex II of the project document.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Note: FRA Advisory Group (FRA-AG); Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ); (\*) 1 Identification, 2 Formulation, 3 Appraisal and approval, 4 Implementation & monitoring, 5 Evaluation; (\*\*) FRA-NC, REDD+ Focal point, NFI/NFMS coordinator, UNFCCC NFP

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Expected timing (for Stakeholder Engagement Plans Only) (*)	Comments
<i>Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) network</i>						
Global Forest Resources Assessment National Correspondents (FRA-NC)	Beneficiaries	Government institution	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Major results from the survey are included in Annex VIII of the project document
Instituto Forestal (INFOR) (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	Government institution	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
USDA Forest Service National Office (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	Government institution	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
All-Russian Research Institute for Silviculture and Mechanization of Forestry (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	Government institution	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document

European Commission – JRC (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	Resource partner / donor	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
International Finance Corporation – World Bank Group (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	Resource partner / donor	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
UNFCCC (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
FOREST EUROPE (FRA-AG + CFRQ)	Beneficiaries	International institution/ Body	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
UNECE Trade and Timber Division (FRA-AG + CFRQ)	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	e-survey	Positive response and help define project activities	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (FRA-AG)	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	interview	High interest to align conventions and interest to be kept updated. Blaise will provide contacts to kept informed	2,4,5	Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document
Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI)	Beneficiaries	International institution / Body	interview	High interest for specific outputs related to capacity development (outputs 1.1.2, 1.1.3)		Results are included in section 1.4.1.1 of the project document, including section 2.2.

*Candidate pilot countries*

<i>Asia- Thailand</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Coordination among different initiatives is needed. Focus on data management could be key.	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**). FRA-NC and REDD+ focal point were interviewed.
<i>Asia- Laos</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Further information on the repository will be needed as well as	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**). FRA-NC was interviewed
<i>Africa – Cote d'Ivoire</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Importance of coordination among different actors and institutions involved in forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination.	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**). REDD+ focal point and NFI coordinator were interviewed.
<i>Africa – Uganda</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Key to take the NFI work to another step.	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**).FRA-NC/NFI coordinator was interviewed.
<i>LAC- Guatemala</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Improve data collection to inform FRA process. An assessment of gaps and needs should be a starting point. Interest to learn on the transition from MRV to ETF.	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**).FRA-NC, NFMS coordinator, were interviewed.
<i>LAC – Honduras</i>	Beneficiaries	Government institution	interview	Interest to link the NFI to the FRA process. Key coordination between national and global activities of CBIT projects.	2,4,5	Key national stakeholders received the information on the project (**).FRA-NC, UNFCCC NFP and REDD+ focal point were interviewed.

<i>International institutions</i>						
CBIT global platform- UNDP	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	interview	Coordination for global and national activities through the CBIT coordination platform and focal points in the countries	2,4,5	The list of possible pilot countries was shared during consultation and we identified the need to coordinate during implementation.
CBIT global platform- UNEP	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	interview	Coordination for global and national activities through the CBIT coordination platform and focal points in the countries.	2,4,5	The list of possible pilot countries was shared during consultation and we identified the need to coordinate during implementation.  UNEP-DTU was also interview as part of the consultation. Since they are taking care of the CBIT coordination platform web page (section 2.2 reports main findings identified)
FAO CBIT – AFOLU global project	Beneficiaries	UN Agency	interview	FAO supporting countries through a series of global activities.	2,4,5	Regular coordination meetings are taking place
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Beneficiaries	International institution/ Body	interview	Positive feedback and Interest in knowledge products.	2,4,5	After project implementation further discussion will take place
Initiative on Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) (ISPRA)	Beneficiaries	International institution/ Body	interview	Coordination or building on ICAT activities was identified as key	2,4,5	One of the implementing agencies from ICAT was interview.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Beneficiaries	International institution/ Body	interview	Positive feedback and Interest in participating to capacity development activities	2,4,5	After project implementation further discussion will take place
<b>Indigenous peoples and local communities organizations</b>						
<i>IPs Representative 1 – Asia</i>	Indigenous Peoples	Civil society organization	interview	include IP in any mechanism; suggest to link to IP networks; appreciation of research results and leadership to IP women	2,4	Further information is available in section 3.5 of the project document
<i>IPs Representative 2 – LAC</i>	Indigenous Peoples	Civil society organization	interview	recognize indigenous knowledge and forest management capacity; IP have precise information on forest conditions and updated inventories and information on effects of climate change on their resources.	2,4	Further information is available in section 3.5 of the project document
<i>Rights &amp; Resources Initiative</i>	Local communities	Civil society organization	Survey	build trust in forest data by recognizing community concerns and territories; third party review is needed (of FRA)	2,4	Further information is available in section 3.5 of the project document
<i>Rainforest Alliance US</i>	Local communities	Civil society organization	Email	recommends two-way information flow; transparency on contracts, licenses, payments, etc.	2,4	Further information is available in section 3.5 of the project document
<b>Civil society</b>						
International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)	Civil society / academia	Civil society organization	interview	Worldwide platform of students that can contribute with global processes	2,4	During implementation to identify a focal point to communicate with



Wageningen University and Research (WUR)	Civil society / academia	Civil society organization	technical consultation	Supportive of the concept and keen to be involved.	2,4	During implementation to identify and explore further collaboration.
Women organizing for change in agriculture & natural resource management (WOCAN)	Civil society / non-governmental organization	Non-governmental organizations	interview	women's time spent in the forest (collecting products) is a key indicator of their contribution, lack of global data on women's contribution to forest (links to SDGs), personal stories can help to change behavior, and people need prescriptions of what to do to improve on gender	2,4	
Megaforestais	Local communities	Civil society organization	interview	forest agencies not always attuned to the needs of communities; forest agencies need to insert themselves more in cross-sectoral dialogue related to land use; welcome more links with FRA (currently none); and Africa is particularly challenged to meet international reporting requirements since such low capacity and resources	2,4	

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;** Yes

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;** Yes

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor;**

**Other (Please explain)**

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

Section 1.1.6 of the project document contains information on the socio-economic benefits based on the gender analysis.

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

Yes

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

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women**

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

Yes

### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

During the PPG phase, interviews were conducted with a number of stakeholder groups, including representatives from the private sector. Details of these interviews can be found in the Annex II of the project document.

The CBIT-Forest has an opportunity to involve the private sector that is serving as source for forest-related data collection and analysis. FAO has signed a 3-year partnership agreement with Google in COP 21 in Paris in 2015 (<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/350761/icode/>), and FRA continues to build on that collaboration. For the FRA 2020 process, it was formally agreed that Google Earth Engine would provide free access to FRA NC to almost all-encompassing satellite/remote sensing imagery and databases and google tools’.

FAO FRA and NFM teams have worked with Google and NASA SERVIR to jointly develop tools such as Collect Earth Online (<https://collect.earth/about>) that will be fully integrated with SEPAL, System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring, (<https://sepal.io/>). Moreover, FAO FRA team and NASA are already collaborating to strengthen institutional capacity of FRA-NC during regional workshops on remote sensing.

## 5. Risks

**Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):**

Risk description	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
		Impact	Likelihood		
FRA national correspondents do not make active use of the FRA reporting platform and do not participate to the training/raise awareness activities.	Outputs not fully achieved/implementation delays	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium/ Low</b>	1. Conduct targeted communication actions with FRA national correspondents on the importance of their active participation on FRA reporting platform and training.  2. Ensure trainings are conducted collaboratively to allow partners to see value and utilize outputs  3. Ensure partners receive appropriate recognition for their contributions.	PMU, PSC

Relevant national institutions are not willing to contribute to the enhanced transparency framework and do not actively incorporate knowledge and take action in their respective institutions.	Outputs not achieved. Institutional capacity building fails.	High	Low	1. Conduct targeted communications on the benefits of enhancing transparency framework 2. Ensure knowledge sharing sessions is conducted collaboratively to allow relevant national institutions to take action in their respective institutions.	PMU, PSC
Appropriate people are not identified and capacity building training is not relevant for national needs	Outputs not fully achieved/implementation delays	Medium	Low	1. Work with countries to select adequate trainees. 2. Ensure training is tailored to meet the national needs.	PMU, PSC
Pilot countries are not interested to participate to capacity building activities on NFMS.	Outputs not fully achieved/implementation delays	High	Low	1. Ensure that pilot countries are actively involved into capacity building activities on NFMS.	PMU, PSC
Practitioners do not make active use of the case studies/best practices.	Knowledge sharing fails	Low	Low	1. Ensure that practitioners are aware of case studies and best practices, so they can share their knowledge in their respective countries.	PMU, PSC

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

### Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Considering the global normative nature of the project, and FAO's unique mandate to provide technical assistance, and its convening power as a neutral broker for coordination across sectors and partners, FAO will be the main executing entity of the CBIT Forest project. FAO will engage a project coordinator that will work under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) being the main project decision making body and that will include representatives from FAO (FRA and National Forest Monitoring teams from the Forestry Department of the FAO), Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) and a representative of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Technical backstopping will be provided in coordination with government representatives and capacity needs will be assessed in close consultation with FRA-National Correspondents (FRA-NC), REDD+ focal points, National Forest Inventories/National Forest Monitoring Systems coordinators and UNFCCC Focal Points.

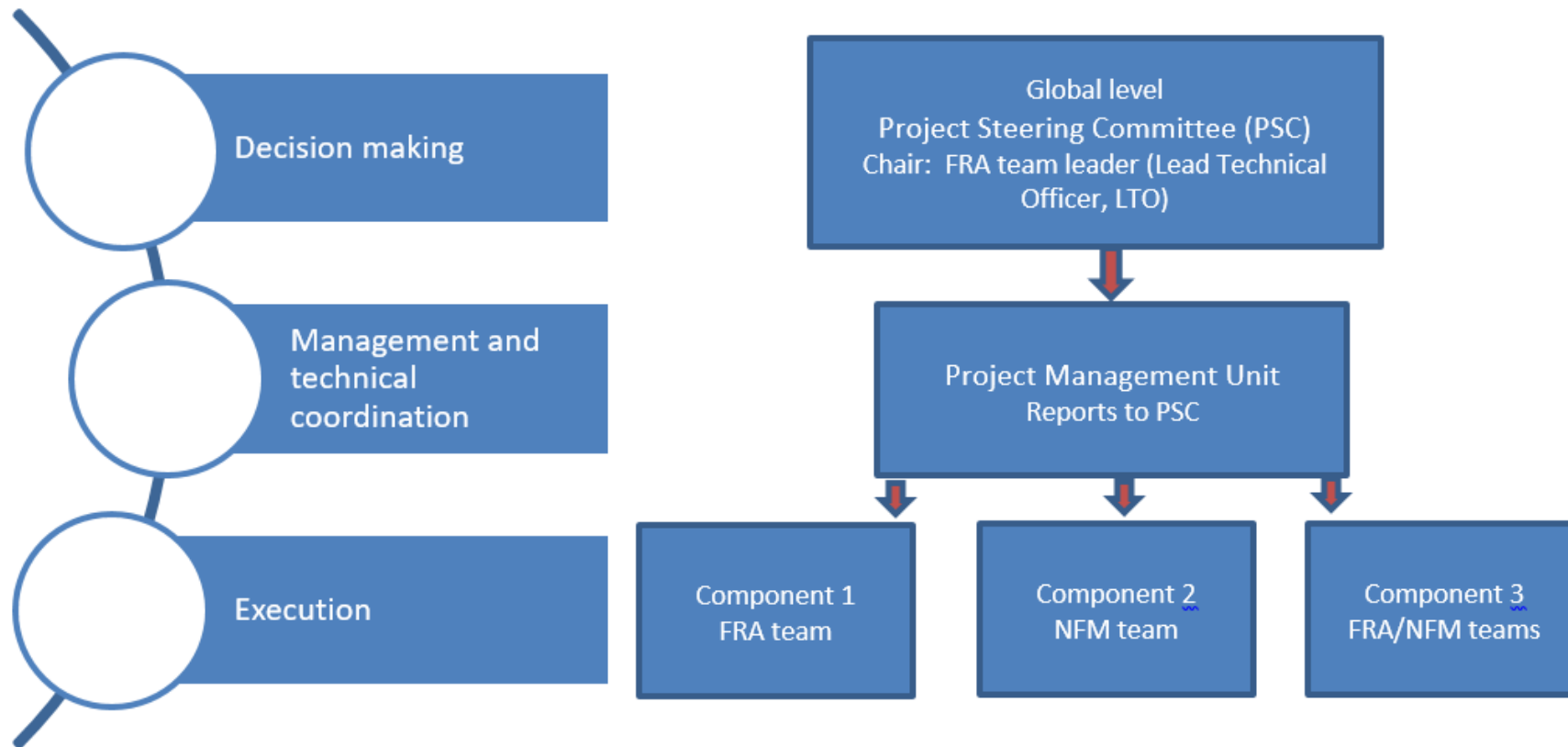
As GEF Agency, FAO will also provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. Internal firewalls mechanisms will be in place to ensure the separation of execution and implementation duties. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

In its capacity GEF Agency, FAO will:

- 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 and the 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
- Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

Other main institutions involved in the project are described in section 2.2 *Coordination with other initiatives of the project document*.

The project structure is as follows:



A full description can be found in **Section 2.1** and relevant annexes of the project document.

For information on coordination with other initiatives see **Section 2.2** of the project document. In the PPG phase, this section was updated thanks to the consultation and interview process with relevant transparency-related stakeholders.

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The CBIT-Forest is a normative global project designed to strengthen capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Detailed information on alignment to and strategic fit is provided in [Section 1.2](#) of the project document.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

The CBIT-Forest project's component 3 'Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF' addresses knowledge management. A full description of knowledge management and communication is provided in [Section 1.4.3](#) of the project document, including knowledge sharing, lessons learnt and communication aspects.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

A summary of M&E arrangements is provided in the following table. A full description on Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting is provided in [Section 2.4 and 2.5](#) of the project document.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Inception Workshop	PMU	Within two months of project document signature	USD 4 000
Project Inception Report	Project Coordinator	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Coordinator travels to workshops	Project Coordinator	Annually	USD 96 000
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	PMU	Each six months to FAO	None
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	PMU	Annually (July) to GEF	None
Co-financing Reports (Annex to PIR)	PMU	Annually (July) to GEF	None
Final evaluation	PMU, OED	At least three months before operational closure	USD 34 000 (managed by OED)
Terminal Report	PMU	Within two months of project closure	USD 6 800 (to TC)
<b>Total Budget</b>			<b>USD 140 800</b>

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

The CBIT-Forest project is a global normative project guided by FAO's corporate approach to Capacity Development[1]<sup>1</sup>, which considers the following interlinked dimensions: individuals, organizations and the enabling environment. Component 1 and 2 of this project will enhance the knowledge and skills of **individuals** coming from forest-related **organizations** (and/or institutions), whose work results greatly rely on the performance of the organizations in which they work. Besides, the project will also influence the **enabling environment**, which will contribute to the effectiveness of organizations. Equally, the work of the project will be affected by participating individuals/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 gender analysis carried out during the PPG phase collected some key information (see Annex IX: *Gender analysis*). The 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 I: *Logical Framework Matrix*): a) Local development benefits will be measured as follows: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of the GEF investment (GEF-7 Core Indicator 11); and b) Investing in women's skills and capacity will be measured as follows: Number of beneficiaries from capacity building activities from the project (disaggregated by gender).

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[1] <http://www.fao.org/3/a-k8908e.pdf>

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
<b>Project Objective:</b> To strengthen institutional and technical capacities of developing countries on forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination processes to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.	Number of countries with enhanced and more transparent forest-related data.	0	NA	At least 26 countries	International forest-related reports (countries adding new data and documentation); international reports (e.g. Biennial Transparency Report, NDC)	Basic requirements of reporting remain the same. Commitment of countries to report remains the same.
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment [GEF-7 Core Indicator 11]	0	NA	At least 160 beneficiaries	International forest-related reports (countries adding new data and documentation); international reports (e.g. Biennial Transparency Report, NDC)	Basic requirements of reporting remain the same. Commitment of countries to report remains the same.
<b>Component 1:</b> Supporting developing countries to strengthen their institutional capacity to exchange knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of forest-related data to respond to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)						
<b>Outcome 1.1</b> Relevant national institutions responsible for forest-related data are able to report	Degree of increased institutional capacity on the enhanced transparency framework	0	NA	1	<i>Mixed methodology:</i> interviews, workshops proceedings (including stocktaking assessments) and data on the use of the FRA reporting platform	FRA national correspondents make active use of the FRA reporting platform and participate to the training/raise awareness activities.

and respond to the transparency requirements thanks to improved institutional capacity.	Number of national institutions in targeted countries with the ability to respond to the enhanced transparency framework	0	NA	20 national institutions	Interviews report, workshops proceedings	Relevant national institutions are willing to contribute to the enhanced transparency framework and actively incorporate knowledge and take action in their respective institutions.
<b>Output 1.1.1.</b> Upgraded Global FRA reporting platform to improve access to forest-related data, support transparency-related activities and tracking process of NDCs designed and implemented.	Global FRA reporting platform updated and operational	FRA reporting platform with 2 modules/functionalities operational	NA	FRA reporting platform with 2 additional modules/functionalities operational	Global FRA reporting platform online with 2 additional modules/functionalities	Users will continue to find the new modules/functionalities relevant. The proposed new modules/functionalities remain compatible with FAO digital strategy. FRA national correspondents being able to have connectivity to internet and able to access the FRA reporting platform.
<b>Output 1.1.2</b> Global set of knowledge and training material on forest-related ETF package developed for and accessed by policymakers and technical experts in different languages and with different focus.	Number of global knowledge products on the forest-related ETF developed and successfully disseminated	3	NA	At least 9 global knowledge products	FAO web pages ( <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a> ; <a href="http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/">http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/</a> ); number of downloads	FRA national correspondents being able to have connectivity to internet and able to access the training material.  Users find relevant knowledge and training material for their needs.

<b>Output 1.1.3</b> Regional high-level awareness raising and capacity building with key national stakeholders organized and executed.	Percentage of stocktaking assessments from country participants with indication of satisfaction	None	NA	At least 70% of participants satisfied	Workshop stocktaking assessment(s)	FRA national correspondents make active use of training/raise awareness material and the FRA reporting platform.
<b>Component 2:</b> Supporting developing countries to strengthen their technical capacity on data collection, analysis and dissemination of forest-related data to respond to the ETF						
<b>Outcome 2.1</b> Enhanced technical capacity of governmental counterparts in pilot countries in reporting, accuracy and consistency of forest-related data.	Number of countries with demonstrated increased capacity	0	NA	At least 6 countries	<i>Mixed methodology:</i> CD gaps & assessments; end of work capacity survey.	Targeted countries make active use of the global forest field observation repository and are interested to participate to capacity building activities on NFMS. Right people identified and relevance of capacity building training towards national needs.
<b>Output 2.1.1</b> A global forest field observation repository to assist efforts to measure and report in compliance with the ETF developed for integration to the global forest-related platform.	Repository developed and operational	0	NA	1	FRA reporting platform	Countries are interested and actively uploading data in the repository.

<b>Output 2.1.2</b> Technical Regional/ National capacity built of relevant focal points in pilot countries on national forest monitoring systems for improved integration and consistency with international reporting processes (NDCs, REDD+).	Number of beneficiaries from capacity building activities from the project (disaggregated by gender)	None	NA	At least 120 beneficiaries	Technical training reports, with gender information on the participants; reports on the job training; number of downloads; web site.	Beneficiaries properly identified. Beneficiaries are interested and willing to participate to capacity-building activities.
<b>Output 2.1.3</b> Roadmap in pilot countries on key gaps and barriers for the continued enhancement of national and global forest-related transparency identified and presented.	Number of roadmap(s) completed	0	NA	1	At least 6 roadmap document(s)	Effective participation from targeted countries during the project.
<b>Component 3.</b> Sharing knowledge and improving coordination to respond to the ETF						
<b>Outcome 3.1</b> Increased knowledge sharing among transparency practitioners and experts.	Number of times practitioners accessing case studies/best practices	0	NA	At least 200	Analytics from FAO web pages: <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a> ; <a href="http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/">http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/</a>	Practitioners make active use of the case studies/best practices.
	Number of times practitioners accessing outreach/dissemination products	0	NA	At least 400	Analytics from FAO web page: <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a> ; <a href="http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/">http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/</a>	Practitioners make active use of the case studies/best practices.

<b>Output 3.1.1</b> Best practices and case studies on successful transparency-related activities, identified, documented and shared.	Number of global case studies/best practices identified and disseminated.	0	NA	At least 3	FAO FRA and REDD+ web pages ( <a href="http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/">http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/</a> , <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a> ); CBIT coordination platform web page ( <a href="https://www.cbitplatform.org/">https://www.cbitplatform.org/</a> )	Countries are willing to share and collaborate on the preparation of the case studies/best practices.
<b>Output 3.1.2</b> Outreach and communication products developed, published and disseminated	Number of global outreach/communication products disseminated	0	1	At least 3	Project webpage at FAO REDD+ <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a>  Analytics from FAO web page: <a href="http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/">http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/it/</a> , <a href="http://www.fao.org/redd/en/">http://www.fao.org/redd/en/</a>	Countries are willing to receive and uptake global products

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment	Agency Response
<b>Project design</b>	4. Is the project designed with sound incremental reasoning?	<b>February 20, 2018:</b>  c) Comment cleared for now. By CEO Endorsement we expect to have a better sense of how many countries will be expected to be reached via the different activities, in particular by output 2.1.2 even if 170 countries that are part of the FRA 2020 global network. Please note that the CBIT is meant to support developing country Parties only.	Following the request from GEF secretariat, during the FAO/GEF project preparation document we have consulted with FRA National Correspondents (Annex VI). We have also identified and consulted with candidate pilot countries (see Annex II and Annex VIII).

<b>Project design</b>	Are the components in Table B sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve project objectives and the GEBs?	<b>February 20, 2018:</b>  Thank you for adding the target to Table F. This target can be revised at CEO Endorsement (noting the a difference in number of countries reached through different activities). Comment cleared.	Revision of target has been done (see Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix)
		<b>October 10 2018:</b>  By CEO endorsement, we expect the project to report on the CBIT indicators per the CBIT Programming Directions.	<i>Core Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment has been incorporated in the logical framework ((see Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix)</i>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD 50 000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
<i>Salaries professionals</i>	\$ 2,380	\$ 2,454	
<i>Consultants</i>	\$ 42,595	\$ 31,946	\$ 14,343
<i>Travel</i>	\$ 5,025	\$ 1,256	
Total	\$ 50,000	\$ 35,657	\$ 14,343

**ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)**

**Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)**

N/A

**ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**

N/A, global project



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