



Development of the Second Biennial Transparency Report and the combined Sixth National Communication and Third Biennial Transparency Report of Morocco under the UNFCCC (BTR2 + BTR3/NC6)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

12318

Countries

Morocco

Project Name

Development of the Second Biennial Transparency Report and the combined Sixth National Communication and Third Biennial Transparency Report of Morocco under the UNFCCC (BTR2 + BTR3/NC6)

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

4/16/2026

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Saba Kalam

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared, no deviation. EA-set aside is \$1,233,000 is within the threshold. (\$633,000 for combined NC/BTR and \$600,000 for standalone BTR). The project will produce one combined NC6/BTR3 and a standalone BTR2 to be submitted to UNFCCC.

Agency's Comments

Enabling activity summary.

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

Secretariat's Comments

6/3/3026

Cleared

4/24/2026

1. The objective is too long. Please limit this to 3-4 sentences and additional information can go to the summary part.
2. Please include a paragraph on the ongoing CBIT project and how it will complement with this project.

Agency's Comments
UNDP Response- 21 May 2026

1. Project objective is 3 sentences long.
2. Paragraph on CBIT project included under project summary part. The CBIT project is intended to be operationally closed by 30 June 2026. The proposed BTR2 and BTR3/NC6 project will build directly on its systems, trained experts, and lessons learned, ensuring continuity and full operationalization of ETF requirements.

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

Cleared, yes the project will be funded by Climate Change EA-Set Aside funds.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments
6/13/2026

Cleared

6/9/2026

- The request for dual role is acknowledged, and the additional documentation has been reviewed and cleared. As noted in the Letter of Support signed by the OFP, 100% of the GEF grant funding will be managed by UNDP, with the Executing Partner METSD responsible for decision making (procurement, recruitment, travel arrangements, etc.) However, this arrangement is not clearly specified in the Institutional Framework section. Please revise accordingly.

- Recalling the CEO's letter to Agency coordinators dated 19 March 2026, please clarify in this section that UNDP will have a voice but will not hold voting rights on the PSC.

5/28/2026

1. Please also note that the letter of agreement between UNDP and the Government of Morocco is not signed (see attached). Please upload a signed version of such Government request letter

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared. The project has received approval from GEF for dual implementation and execution support by UNDP. All the required documents have been uploaded on the portal.

Letter of Agreement_	Project	Annexes/appen	Public	4/16/2026	
UNDP provide support services	Document	dixes to the proj		11:04 AM	
		ect documents			



Agency's Comments

UNDP Response 12 June 2026

1. The Institutional Framework section has been revised to reflect the dual-role arrangement, specifying that UNDP will manage 100% of the GEF grant funding, while METSD, as the Executing Partner, will be responsible for project decision-making, including procurement, recruitment, and travel arrangements, consistent with the Letter of Support signed by the OFP.
2. The Institutional Framework section already states that "UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the PSC and attends PSC meetings as a non-voting member."

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Executing Entity to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Executing Entity, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the PSC and attends PSC meetings as a non-voting member. A strict firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and project execution undertaken by UNDP.

UNDP Response 3 June 2026

1. The Standard Letter of Agreement (LoA) between UNDP and the Government for the Provision of Support Services will be signed following CEO Approval and concurrently with the signing of the UNDP Project Document. For the Government's formal request for GEF Agency Execution, please refer to the Letter of Support.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared. Yes the project has a budgeted M&E plan. The monitoring budget is 4% of the project cost (excluding PMC). This is okay for an EA project as per the policy.

Agency's Comments

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

4/24/2026

Cleared. Yes the financing table is in line with the GEF policies and guidelines.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared, yes the project will be funded by Climate Change EA-Set Aside funds.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared, yes the project will be funded by Climate Change EA-Set Aside funds.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

NA

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

Cleared. The project will be funded by Climate Change EA-Set Aside funds.

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

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

Cleared. Rio Markers provided

Agency's Comments
Country endorsement.

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

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

The project has been endorsed my Rachid Firaqi, OFP since April 2018.

It is important to note, the LoE mentions the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development as the executing entity and does not mention UNDP to perform dual implementation to execution role.

However, there is another letter GEF OFP Letter_Dual Execution_BTR2+BTR3_NC6(uploaded on the portal), that mentions UNDP to perform dual execution and implementation role.

Agency's Comments
Response to Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

NA

Agency's Comments
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

NA

Agency's Comments
Council comments

Secretariat's Comments
4/24/2026

NA

Agency's Comments
STAP comments

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
CSOs comments

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments
Project Budget Table.

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

Secretariat's Comments
6/13/2026

•In the far-right column of the budget, include "only" UNDP name if UNDP is releasing payment on behalf of the Government, including Direct Payments.

•In past, UNDP has submitted signed LoA on several other projects even if the project has not yet been endorsed/approved.

6/9/2026

a. The direct payment arrangement and the MTSED's legal prohibition on receiving any GEF funding means that "UNDP" should be listed as the Responsible Entity in the far-right column. Please revise.

b. Please clarify how the Financial/Administrative Assistant will be hired/procured, noting that according to the dual role exception waiver, any GEF Agency costs associated with performing the dual role must be recovered from the Agency's cofinanced portion of the project and not from GEF funding which is acknowledged in the dual role justification memo. Please revise as necessary.

3. Letter of Agreement: Submitting signed LOAs between the Country and the Agency prior to CEO Endorsement/Approval is a longstanding practice. Please upload the signed LOA with the resubmission.

5/28/2026

1. The only budget activity that has UNDP listed as an executing entity is the *Project Manager* (see screenshot below). As per all the documentation provided it looks like UNDP will be doing more than that. Please include UNDP in the "Executing Entity" column for each of the activities where it is expected to provided executing functions.

Contractual services- Company							Department (SDD)
Climate finance consultant - Firm - Data collection, tracking support, Development of CTF, Development of support chapter for BTR2 and BTR3. (Total: 64,000 USD)	34,000	30,000	64,000			64,000	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development - Sustainable Development Department (SDD)
Information on research, systematic observation, education, training, public awareness and gender Consultant - National consultancy firm - Data collection regarding Information on research, systematic observation, education, training, public awareness and gender, compiled and reported + Development of the dedicated chapter for CN6 (Total: 20,000 USD)		20,000	20,000			20,000	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development - Sustainable Development Department (SDD)
Reporting and transparency consultancy - Contractual Services - Companies; to verify CRTs and CTF, support on using ETF reporting tools (Total: 40,000 USD)		40,000	40,000			40,000	Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development - Sustainable Development Department (SDD)
Subtotal - Contractual Services - Company	183,200	230,000	413,200	-	-	413,200	
Contractual Services - Individual							
Project manager (1) to conduct surveys across various sectors, data entry, cleaning, and verification, Compilation and harmonization of historical data (under Outcome 1.1, 1.4, 2.1 and 2.2) (2) to conduct verifications with ETF and Paris agreement requirements, conduct surveys across various sectors, perform data entry, cleaning, and verification, and compile and harmonize reported data (under Outcome 1.5 and 2.6) (3) for project management (under PMC)	68,200	70,200	138,400		23,200	161,600	UNDP

4/24/2026

1. Please use the template included in Annex 7 of the Guidelines (accessible [here](#)) ? the categories formatting including subtotals must be exactly followed.

2. There are several lines for the project manager. It should ideally be one line with the budget.

Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct surveys across various sectors, data entry, cleaning, and verification, Compilation and harmonization of historical data (Total : 37,000 USD)	37,000		37,000		37,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct surveys across various sectors, perform data entry, cleaning, and verification, and compile and harmonize historical data and developing tools (Total : 17,000 USD)	17,000		17,000		17,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct verifications with ETF and Paris agreement requirements, conduct surveys across various sectors, perform data entry, cleaning, and verification, and compile and harmonize reported data (Total : 14,200 USD)	14,200		14,200		14,200	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct surveys across various sectors, perform data entry, cleaning, and verification, and compile and harmonize historical data, update SI if necessary and/or develop sectoral archiving system (Total : 20,000 USD)		20,000	20,000		20,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct surveys across various sectors, data entry, cleaning, and verification, Compilation and harmonization of historical data, maintenance of developed sectoral tools (Total : 29,200 USD)		29,200	29,200		29,200	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Project manager to conduct verifications with ETF and Paris agreement requirements, conduct surveys across various sectors, perform data entry, cleaning, and verification, and compile and harmonize reported data (Total : 21,000 USD)		21,000	21,000		21,000	UNDP
Contractual Services - Individ	Full-time project manager remuneration under PMC (Total : 23,200 USD)			-		23,200	UNDP

3. Personnel costs (including consultants and contractual services - individuals) accounted for 39.5% of the project budget, which is high.

4. According to the TOR of the project manager, 90% of the tasks are managerial and 10% are technical. However, the current budget allocates 15% to project management (PMC) and 85% to technical deliverables (components). Please update the budget so that the allocation matches between technical and managerial tasks.

5. Communication fees for project management unit are assigned to individual components, rather than to the PMC.

We will review the budget table again upon resubmission and provide comments as appropriate.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response - 17 June 2026

1. Revised GEF budget table uploaded ? as requested only UNDP is added in the far-right column of the budget.

2. Thank you for your observation. While there may have been instances in the past where a signed LoA was submitted prior to formal project endorsement, such practice is not aligned with applicable UNDP rules and procedures.

In line with UNDP rules and standard legal practice, UNDP does not enter into legal commitments including signing an LoA until project funding has been formally secured. Accordingly, the LoA will be signed following CEO Endorsement together with the Project Document.

UNDP Response - 12 June 2026

a. UNDP does not execute these activities, but rather only releases the funds as direct payment to the suppliers/vendors on behalf of the IP (or RP) who executes the activity. For this reason, the IP name is to be kept in that column.

b. As specified in both the Project Document (ProDoc) and the Budget Table, the Financial/Administrative Assistant will not be recruited by UNDP. The position will be recruited and managed directly by the Implementing Partner, namely the Department of Sustainable Development (DDD).

Consequently, no GEF Agency costs associated with this position will be incurred by UNDP, and the arrangement is fully consistent with the provisions outlined in the dual role exception waiver. The costs related to this position are budgeted under the Implementing Partner's project management arrangements and therefore do not constitute GEF Agency costs.

c. UNDP does not enter into legal commitments (including in the LOA), until project funding has been formally secured. In accordance with UNDP rules, the LOA will be signed after the CEO Endorsement along with the Project Document.

The OFP Letter of Support to request GEF Agency Execution is signed and uploaded to the GEF portal.

UNDP Response - 3 June 2026

UNDP will be responsible only for the direct recruitment and management of the Project Manager and for the project audit. This is reflected accordingly in the Executing Entity column of the GEF budget.

While the Letter of Agreement (LOA) also provides for UNDP to make direct payments on behalf of the project when requested, this administrative and fiduciary function does not constitute execution of project activities. Responsibility for the implementation and execution of project

activities remains with the designated executing entity, while UNDP's role is limited to the financial disbursement and fiduciary oversight of the payment transaction.

UNDP Response- 21 May 2026

1. The GEF budget has been revised in accordance with the format provided in the Annex 7 in GEF Policy Guideline.
2. The Project Manager budget has been grouped into one line.
3. In Morocco, many experts work as independent/individual consultants, while the overall pool of experts remains relatively limited. The budget lines proposed take into account the national context and the availability ? or lack thereof ? of independent experts and/or consulting firms depending on the thematic area. Since this exercise relies heavily on both sector-specific knowledge and international reporting requirements, it is strongly recommended to prioritize national experts, including independent consultants, rather than international experts. This approach would also contribute indirectly to strengthening and expanding national climate expertise.
4. The proposed tasks encompass the most common responsibilities of a project manager focusing on managerial tasks. However, significant technical work is required and is primarily carried out by the PM, including preparing all terms of reference, reviewing and analyzing all deliverables, supporting the preparation of reports for submission and their alignment with the requirements of applicable decisions (18/CMA.1, 5/CMA.3, ...), using the ETF reporting tools to submit CRT and CTF, supporting the validation of methodological approaches and assumptions considered by sectors and experts, assisting stakeholders and experts in addressing the recommendations of the BTR1 technical expert review, among others. The tasks outlined in the PM's Terms of Reference have been revised to accurately reflect the work that will be performed.
5. The costs allocated under the project components are related to the publication fees for the ToRs, which are generally issued separately for the different project components and for each individual ToR published. The costs included under the PMC are related to communication and Wi-Fi expenses incurred by the project team throughout the four years of project implementation, estimated at approximately USD 500 per year, and may either be contracted during the first year to cover the entire implementation period or paid annually over the duration of the project.

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/24/2026

Cleared. SESP uploaded

Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION.**

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	5/28/2026	5/21/2026
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/3/2026	6/3/2026
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/13/2026	6/12/2026
Additional Review (as necessary)		6/17/2026
Additional Review (as necessary)		