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Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10088

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
   CBIT **Yes**
   NGI **No**

Project Title
Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

Countries
Global

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Technical University of Denmark/UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP)

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area
Climate Change

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Learning, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date
8/10/2021

Expected Implementation Start
1/10/2022

Expected Completion Date
1/9/2027

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
623,917.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
CCM-3-8	Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency	GET	567,547.00	400,000.00
CCM-EA	Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through enabling activities	GET	6,000,000.00	100,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**6,567,547.00**	**500,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements	Technical Assistance	Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities	1.1 Assistance provided to countries with development and reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request 1.2 Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened 1.3 Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified 1.4 South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements	GET	5,567,324.00	

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13	Technical Assistance	Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	2.1 Integrated Platform content and features managed and updated regularly 2.2 Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized	GET	487,483.00	400,000.00
3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	Technical Assistance	Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E	3.1 Project monitored to support results-based management 3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated	GET	200,000.00	
			Sub Total ($)		**6,254,807.00**	**400,000.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

			GET		312,740.00	100,000.00
			Sub Total($)		**312,740.00**	**100,000.00**
			Total Project Cost($)		**6,567,547.00**	**500,000.00**

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Other	UNEP DTU Partnership	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00

| | | | **Total Co-Financing($)** | **500,000.00** |

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

NA

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($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	567,547	53,917	621,464.00
UNEP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	6,000,000	570,000	6,570,000.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**6,567,547.00**	**623,917.00**	**7,191,464.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required   **false**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	50,000	4,750	
			Total Project Costs($)		**50,000.00**	**4,750.00**	**54,750.00**

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	250	500		
Male	250	500		
Total	500	1000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

The focus and approach of the project is consistent with project design at PIF endorsement, and there are no changes in the logical framework. This CEO ER incorporates information and guidance received subsequent to PIF endorsement in the following areas:

- The phrase ?to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees? has been added to the wording of the project objective at the request of the German Council Member (see Annex B).
- The Rio Marker for climate change mitigation has been changed from ?1? to ?2? to reflect consistency with the Phase IIA project.
- The number of beneficiaries has been expanded to 1,000 (including at least 500 women). The updated estimates reflects several recent developments, such as the establishment of several new regional MRV/Transparency networks, which have expanded the number of participating countries and the number of beneficiaries in each participating country; the increased demand for on-line events following travel restrictions, which has expanded the reach of network events; and increased connectivity in climate change expert communities, which has allowed for broader participation in on-line events globally.
- Component 1 has been increased from USD 5,526,550 to USD 5,567,324 based on a more detailed costing exercise during project preparation phase. Similarly, component 2 has been increased from USD 450,000 to USD 487,483 to properly cover costs of the one-stop shop platform. Finally, component 3 has been reduced from USD 278,257 to USD 200,000 in order to streamline reporting; funding will be used as originally stated for lessons learned and analysis.
- The wording of Output 1.1 has been revised to include ?development? to allow the project to respond to countries? demands of support facilitating access to funds.
- The wording of Output 1.2 has been edited to include the phrase ?MRV/Transparency networks? to reflect wording under both the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. While the original concept emphasized expanding the number of regional/sub-regional peer learning networks, two additional networks were established in 2019, six were added in 2020, and one additional will be piloted with Phase II A. Therefore, the addition of networks is now limited to a network for Arabian Peninsula countries, which will be addressed in Output 1.4. Support for the network under Output 1.2 now focuses on continuing network support to participating countries in an efficient way, which may include the eventual consolidation of some networks, as well as supporting the participation of additional countries in these networks.
- Activity 1.1.6 has been added under Output 1.1 to provide on-call assistance to guide countries in preparing Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs).

•Output 1.4 and corresponding deliverables have been added in order to allow the project to provide assistance on reporting and transparency to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in a comprehensive way.

•The baseline situation, potential risks, and risk mitigation related to the COVID-19 global pandemic are provided in the text of the document and in M&E procedures and terms of reference (ToRs).

•Management arrangements are generally aligned with the Phase IIA Medium Size Project (MSP, GEF 10128) and now incorporate a ?firewall? between project execution and project oversight. The implementing arrangements of the project have been revised to reflect the transfer from UNDP to UNEP of its part of the project.

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description); 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects; **3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project; 4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies; 5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected** contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

1a. Project Description.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be

addressed (systems description)

?

Project Context

The Paris Agreement signified an important turning point in climate change negotiations as the global community recognized the urgency in facing climate change and agreed on a goal of "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing significant efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks of impacts? (Article 2). Article 13 of the Paris Agreement is critical to implementation, as it provides the outline for an enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for countries related to the actions they take related to climate change and transparency related to the support that they provide and receive. Since 2020, all countries, both developed and developing, are now expected to begin to comply with Article 13. The advent of enhanced transparency frameworks presents an opportunity to streamline measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities related to climate change by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. This approach can reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing countries. Figure 1 below provides an overview of current reporting requirements for Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris

Agreement. The figure highlights two elements: 1) The multiple sets of requirements; and 2) The common elements across these requirements.
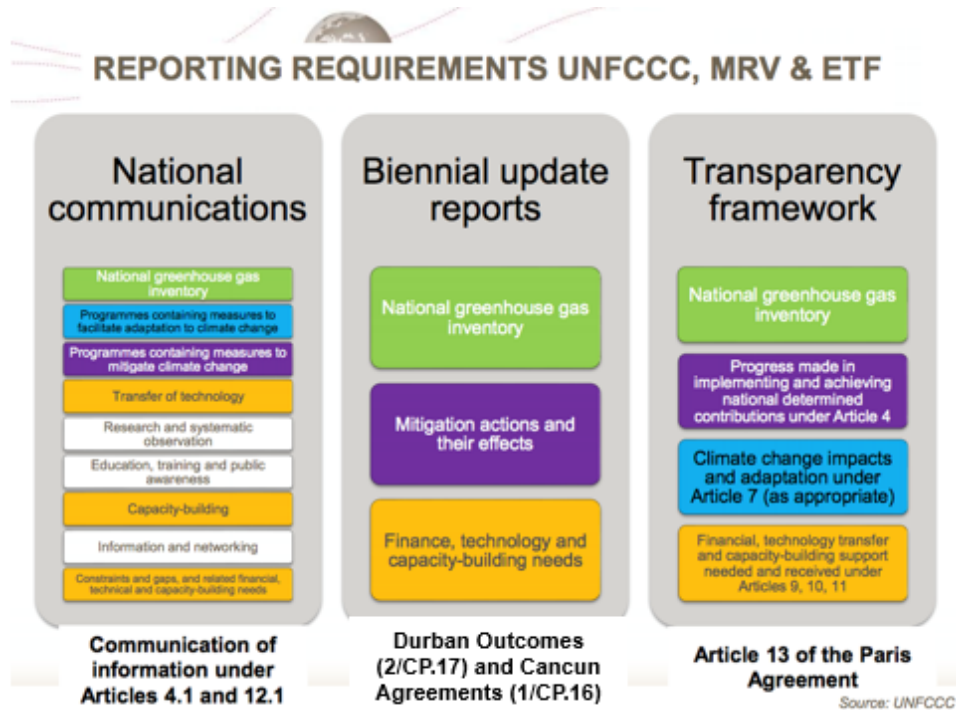

Figure 1: Overview of Climate Change Reporting Requirements

In addition to these reporting commitments, the majority of countries have submitted updated or new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) before COP 26 held in November 2021. The Glasgow Climate Pact agreed on in COP 26 further requests Parties to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their nationally determined contributions as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances, NDCs are then to be submitted every five years thereafter (2025, 2030 and so on). It should be noted that progress in reporting under the UNFCCC and the Durban Outcomes and Cancun Agreements varies widely among developing countries. There are countries that have produced several national communications (NCs) and several biennial update reports (BURs), while other countries have not even produced their first BURs.

The Conference of Parties (COP) 24 held in December 2018 in Katowice, Poland reached a series of important decisions regarding transparency under Article 13, known collectively as the Paris Rulebook. The decisions outlined key commitments for all parties to the agreement and their timing during the 2020-2024 ?Preparatory Phase? for reporting. It was expected that key elements of the rulebook would be clarified in the subsequent COP (COP25), but the COP did not reach agreement in these areas.

In November 2020, the UNFCCC conducted a series of climate dialogues, and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary announced the establishment of the Universal Participation in the Enhanced Transparency

Framework (ETF) Initiative.[1] This initiative will provide a platform to mobilize support for developing countries and seeks to bring together countries, support organizations, the business community, NGOs, and other stakeholders. It also aims to increase political support and buy-in at the country level for evidence-based national decision-making processes with a broad base of stakeholder engagement.

One important aspect of Article 13 reporting that resulted from COP24 was the agreement that Parties are to submit a *Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)* by December 31, 2024, which should include, among other items:

- National Inventory Reports (NIRs)
- Use of IPCC 2006 Good Practice Guidance
- Reporting at least three gases (CO_2, CH_4, N_2O) as well as any gases previously reported, covered in the NDC, or covered by an activity under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement
- Reporting on consistent annual time series from 1990
- Latest reporting year no more than two years prior to submission of the report
- Institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of NIRs
- Reporting on support needed and received
- An Adaptation Communication (information on impacts and adaptation)
- Tracking Progress on National Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Structured summary of progress towards NDCs
- Reporting on indicators
- Reporting on accounting and methodologies (yet to be defined by the COP)
- Information on mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans
- Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals that extend at least 15 years beyond the next year ending in a zero or five
- Projections of greenhouse gas emissions that include a ?with measures? scenario and may also include ?with additional measures? and ?without measures? scenarios

It should be noted that Article 13.2 of the Paris Agreement states that there is to be ?flexibility in implementation of [Article 13] to those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities.? The MPGs on reporting are to reflect this flexibility. Generally, all MPGs, including those related to the BTRs, must take the national capacities and circumstances of developing country Parties into account. As the UNFCCC states, least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) ?can choose to submit the information in their BTR at their discretion (i.e. it may be less frequently than biennial) (1/CP.21, para. 90 and 18/CMA.1 para. 4). No specific justification in the BTR for the Party?s use of this discretion is required.? (Source: UN Climate Change Secretariat, *FAQs on the operationalization of the Enhanced Transparency Framework*; p. 15).?

The development of the Paris Rulebook also signifies a change in biennial reporting for Non Annex I countries, which will submit their final Biennial Update Report (BUR) by 2024, to be followed by the submission of a BTR by the end of 2024 as presented in Figure 2:
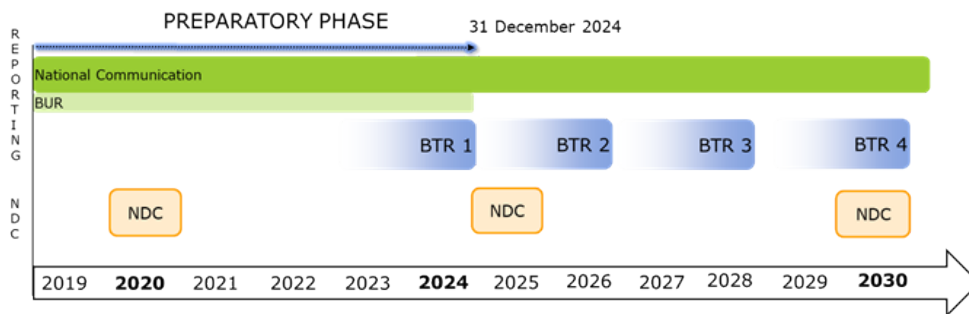
Figure 2: Timeline for the introduction of the BTR, with the deadlines for BTR and NDC submissions.[2]

While the BTR will supersede the BUR, at present the reporting requirement under the UNFCCC to submit National Communications (NCs) is still in place. Figure 3 below describes the flow of information in the Transparency Framework and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement.
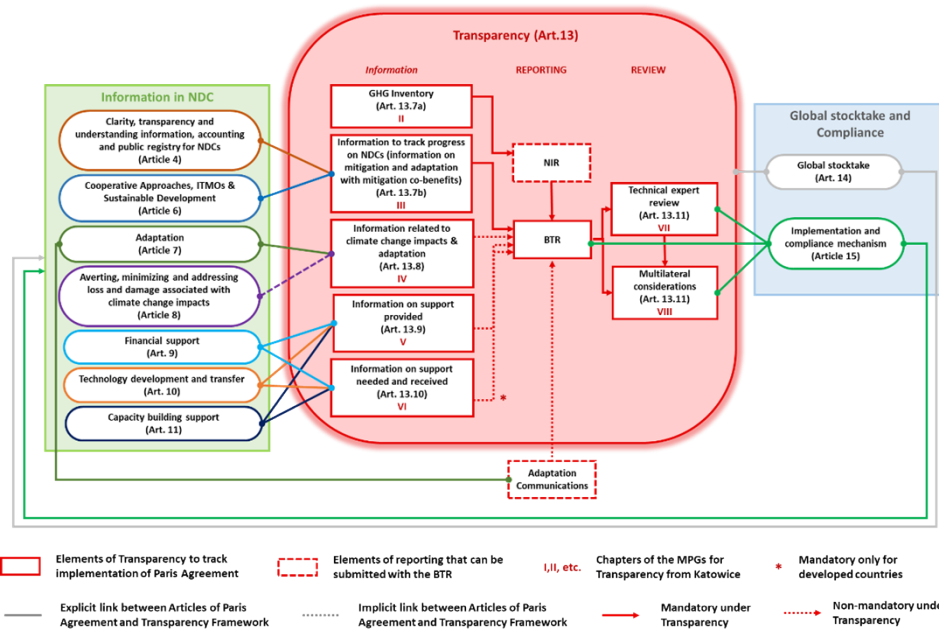

Figure 3: Overview of the flow of information in the Transparency Framework

and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement[3]

The central report is the BTR, which acts as a reporting vehicle for the elements listed under the column "Information", as depicted in the Figure 3. Other key reports are the National Inventory Report (NIR)[4] of GHGs, and the Adaptation Communication (AC). The NIR is a mandatory deliverable under Article 13 and a component of the BTR, although it can be submitted as a stand-alone document. The AC, on the other hand, is not a mandatory submission and may be submitted with the BTR or through other reporting vehicles, such as the NDC, NC or National Adaptation Plan (NAP). In the figure, the NIR and AC are represented with a dashed frame since submitting with the BTR is optional.

COP 26 in Glasgow constitutes an important milestone in the climate agenda as it saw the completion of the Paris Rulebook through agreement on the final elements necessary for the operationalization for the Enhanced Transperency Framework (ETF) and the agreemnts on the rules of the cooperative approaches under article 6.

The main outcomes relating to transparency include agreements on:

- ？ The common reporting tables for the national inventory reports;

- ？ The common tabular format for tracking an dreporting on progress of NDC implementation;

- ？ The common tabular formats for reporting of the information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, as well as support needed and received;

- ？ The outlines for the biennial transparency report (BTR), national inventory document (NID) and technical expert review report (TERR).

COP 26 has ensured homogenization of the reporting between developed and developing country Parties. It has also clarified how countries can report when using flexibility and the various ways to do so.

Based on this outcome, COP 26 requested the secretariat to develop electronic reporting tools and to ensure their compatibility with the IPCC software.

Provision of support and capacity building to developping countries were one of the main issues discussed during this COP. The secretariat was therefore requested to develop a comprehensive training programme to ensure capacity building of national experts on the new reporting tools.

The new needs on capacity building generated by this COP will be taken into account in the design of the training programmes planned whithin this project and the various knowledge products that will be developed. The project is designed in an agile way that allows it to respond quickly to new developments coming from the international negociations and to the emerging needs from countries.

Needs will be assessed regularly and requests either coming from countries or from the intergovernmental processes will be taken into account.

In addition, closer collaboration with the secretariat in providing capacity building on the use of the new reporting tools will be explored at the start of implementation of the project and its outcomes included in the annual workplans.

The clarification of the rules of the operationalization of article 6 has allowed the completion of the reporting requirements under article 13 and a specific section in the common tabular format for tracking NDCs has been added. Trainings and guidance will therefore take into account the reporting linkage between article 6 and article 13 and will explore synergies in the institutional arrangements for the operationalization of both the cooperative approaches an the ETF.

In addition to this reporting, at COP 25, the UNFCCC agreed on a 5-year strengthened Gender Action Plan (GAP). The GAP includes 20 activities grouped under the priority areas: a) capacity-building, knowledge management and communication; b) gender balance, participation and women?s leadership; c) coherence; d) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; e) monitoring and reporting. Government and other relevant organizations at all levels are called upon to enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data, organize expert group meetings on gender budgeting, deploy gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, and foster women?s and girls? full participation and leadership in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as research and development.[5]

At present, these multiple commitments represent a serious challenge to developing country Parties. In a December 2020 UNDP-UNEP report based on a survey of project coordinators of climate change enabling activity projects, countries expressed a need for support in the following areas following the conclusion of the Global Support Programme (GSP); i.e., in 2021 and beyond:

- ? Support for GHG inventory systems and training (44 countries)
- ? Training on MRV and institutional arrangements (41 countries)
- ? Vulnerability and adaptation assessments (28 countries)
- ? Support for mitigation analysis and reporting (27 countries)
- ? BTR requirements (16 countries)
- ? Tracking of support received (9 countries)
- ? Other support areas (42 countries)[6]

Challenges also go beyond specific reports. While these countries have an increasing number of methodological and informational resources at their disposal, many of them face persistent challenges in their capacity to monitor and report on climate change: a lack of data, staff shortages and turnover, and a lack of individual capacity to conduct certain transparency-related activities (see Table 1).

Table 1: Barriers to the Development of Enhanced Transparency Frameworks

Barrier	Type of Barrier	Description
Country-level institutional framework for reporting on mitigation, adaptation, and financial resources needed and received	Institutional	Many developing countries have some information systems that contribute to reporting in their NCs and BURs; however, these systems are often incomplete and unconnected. Countries often lack the legislative and regulatory mandates to obtain data from sectoral ministries on an ongoing basis. Even when such mandates exist, there may be problems with enforcement, which relate to underlying issues of political support. In cases where data are received, they may not be properly formatted or vetted for quality.
Technical and management capacities to prepare solid quality reports	Organizational / individual	Government agencies that are currently responsible for reporting and transparency are understaffed, and frequent turnover and administrative reorganization can cause disruptions in the continuity of employees working on the reports. When staff are available, they may lack particular methodologies that would allow them to undertake impact assessments of mitigation and adaptation measures and vulnerability to climate change. In other cases, staff are fully occupied with current reporting projects and lack the time and resources to interpret new developments related to Article 13. When consultants are used, agencies may lack the capacity to identify the proper expertise and procure experts that correspond well to needs and can also provide opportunities for learning by doing to project staff. In other cases, training materials may not be available in a format or language that is accessible to staff.
Availability of data	Organizational	While data gaps and uncertainties have improved in the past few years in many countries, they continue to be a very important barrier to the quality and comprehensiveness of the NC reports, and the sustainability of the NC and BUR processes. These gaps will also hinder the robustness of country Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This barrier is closely related to the lack of harmonized institutional frameworks, as in some cases data are available at the country or regional level, but are not consistently shared.
Stakeholder consultation processes	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Many countries lack the tools for broad consultative processes that include a wide variety of sectoral agencies and civil society, including the private sector and disadvantaged groups. A consultative approach is seldom part of the organizational culture of institutions leading those processes.

Integration of gender considerations	Institutional / Organizational/ Cultural	Although gender is mentioned in a number of NDCs, evidence suggest that developing countries? capacity to support gender mainstreaming (or other mainstreaming of socially excluded groups), to integrate gender-related climate change findings into sectoral policies, and to participate meaningfully in the strengthened 5-year Gender Action Plan (Decision 3/CP.25) needs to be strengthened.

Experience from previous and ongoing GEF-funded initiatives, including the Global Support Programme, the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, and country-level climate change enabling activities, has been collected from ongoing feedback and from project evaluations.[7] Experience from the GSP and CBIT projects also indicates that although countries vary in their capacity for climate change reporting, they face a number of common needs and gaps:

•A need to strengthen and formalize institutional arrangements for data collection, analysis, and reporting;

•A gap between country reporting and climate policies and programs; i.e., reporting institutions may not be the same as focal point institutions for climate change, and the resulting information may not be reflected in country policies and programs;

•A need for effective inter-agency decision-making bodies on climate change that can enhance country ownerships of reporting processes and their results;

•A need to focus on the transition to ongoing, country-owned, self-funded arrangements for reporting;

•A need to strengthen technical capacities in various aspects of reporting, including scenarios; inventories; impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation; and mitigation;

•A need to improve GHG inventories and to move towards universal use of the 2006 IPCC good practice guidelines;

•A need to collect gender-disaggregated data, understand the gender implications of mitigation and adaptation measures, and mainstream gender issues and active women?s participation into country-level climate policies and institutions

•A need to complement stand-alone workshops with sustained bilateral or multilateral twinning or mentoring relationships.

However, the introduction of enhanced transparency frameworks presents an opportunity to streamline MRV activities by approaching the common elements of transparency activities in a holistic way. Specifically, requirements under the Paris Agreement that necessitate the establishment of institutional arrangements for the estimation, compilation, and timely reporting of national inventory reports can form the core of an MRV system that can collect and report on other data and information needed for National Communications under the UNFCCC and BTRs under the Paris Agreement. This approach could reduce the time burden and financial burden on developing country Parties. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to share experiences and good practice across Parties, avoiding the need to devote

valuable time and scarce expertise and funding to elaborate unique structures and approaches for each developing country Party.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

Baseline Scenario

Support for Addressing Barriers to UNFCCC Reporting

Over time, Non Annex I (NAI) country reporting to the UNFCCC has advanced to the point where 154 NAI countries have submitted their National Communication (NC), 144 NAI countries have submitted a second NC, 85 countries have submitted a third NC, and 13 NAI countries have submitted a fourth NC. Uruguay has submitted a 5th NC, and Mexico has submitted 5th and 6th NCs. For Biennial Update Reports (BURs), 66 NAI countries have submitted a first BUR, 34 have submitted a second BUR, 16 have submitted a third BUR, and five have submitted a fourth BUR.[8]

Following the Paris Agreement, developing country Parties of that agreement have forged networks and relationships to support the MRV work that flows from their original UNFCCC reporting requirements as NAI Parties. The National Communications Support Programme (NCSP), a UNDP-GEF project that was launched in 1997 to support non-Annex I countries in the preparation of their Initial National Communications to the UNFCCC, piloted a number of activities?regional workshops, expert rosters, networking among country teams and thematic experts, and peer assistance?that are still considered good practices. In the area of developing country reporting, UNDP and UNEP have served and continue to serve as GEF Implementing Agencies for Enabling Activity projects that have supported numerous National Communications and ? following the Durban Outcomes and Cancun Agreements ? Biennial Update Reports.

The Global Support Programme (GSP),[9] which was jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP, was initiated with the objective of providing support to non-Annex I Parties in their preparations of

National Communications and Biennial Update Reports. Since 2015, GSP has been providing technical support to all developing countries, complementing the work of other supporting bodies such as the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention. In the framework of the GSP, UNEP and UNDP have conducted national and regional training workshops and dialogues on issues of NCs, BURs and their components. Guidance documents were prepared and published, including translation of existing guidelines into other United Nations languages. To date, thirty-seven regional workshops, thirty-six national workshops and more than sixty webinars have been organized, co-organized and/or co-funded by the GSP, counting with the participation of representatives from more than a 100 developing Countries. The GSP has also assisted 72 countries in reviewing 45 GHG inventories, 21 NCs, and 18 BURs. In addition, 26 countries have received request-based support, where GSP has reviewed technical terms of reference for experts. In addition to a high level of activity, the GSP has had a truly global reach: it has engaged 131 non-Annex I parties, and 85% of all non-Annex I parties, 90% of all least developed countries (LDCs), and 100% of all small island developing states (SIDS) have participated in GSP activities. It has also been able to respond to all country requests to date. In the course of the mid-term evaluation of the GSP, ?Stakeholders interviewed uniformly expressed an appreciation of GSP support in terms of relevance, quality, and utility.?[10]

The GSP has also supported the creation of regional networks for peer learning. There were 3 networks : six were led by UNDP, and seven by UNEP. As a whole, the networks represent broad geographic coverage. Table 2 provides an overview of the networks and their country participants.

Table 2: Network Overview

Region	Participating Countries	Lead Agency	Number of Countries	Year Established
RedINGEI - Spanish Speaking Latin America	Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile	UNDP	15	2016
Lusophone cluster	Brazil, Portugal (as provider), Mozambique, Angola, Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Ecuatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Timor Leste	UNDP	9	2017
Eurasia	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia (Moldova and Georgia added in 2020)	UNDP	8	2017

West Africa	Mali, Guinea, The Gambia, Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d?Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Benin	UNDP	13	2017
Central Asia and Caucasus	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus	UNDP	8	2017
English speaking Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago	UNDP	12	2019
Pacific	Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nieu, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	UNEP	14	2019
South Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	UNEP	8	2020
South East Asia	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	UNEP	9	2020
Eastern Africa	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Djibouti	UNEP	10	2020
Southern Africa	South Africa, Mauritius, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Eswatini, Seychelles, Madagascar, Zimbabwe	UNEP	11	2020
North Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia	UNEP	6	2020
Central Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Gabon, Mauritania, Madagascar	UNEP	8	2020
Total Number of Countries			**131**	

The networks vary in terms of how long they have been in existence (starting dates range from 2016 to 2020), and they use several different coordination arrangements:

•Seven networks are coordinated by consultants based in the region: South Asia, Southeast Asia (both coordinated by a single consultant), RedINGEI ? Spanish-speaking Latin America, Lusophone Cluster, Eurasia, Central Asia and Caucasus, and West Africa;

•Four networks are coordinated by UN Volunteeers (UNVs): East Africa and Southern Africa are coordinated by one UNV, while North Africa and Central Africa are covered by the other;

•One network is coordinated by an NGO (English-speaking Caribbean); and

•One network is coordinated by UNEP/GSP staff (Pacific).

The regional consultants have played a significant role in being able to continue, and even expand, training activities during the COVID-19 global pandemic through virtual events.

Support for Addressing Barriers to Article 13 Implementation

With the advent of the Paris Agreement, the UNEP DTU Partnership and the GSP provided support to 32 countries compiling their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) from 2015 to 2017. That initiative included the development of an INDC portal, which served as a helpdesk for developing country Parties.

Collaboration between UNEP and UNEP DTU Partnership in providing technical support to developing countries was further enhanced with the approval of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (GCP) (GEF ID 9675), joinly implemented by UNEP and UNDP, financed through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) established "to support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement." The CBIT GCP was primarily designed to address the lack of a platform for information sharing and knowledge management on the enhanced transparency framework, as defined by the article 13 of the Paris Agreement. In the framework of the CBIT GCP, three global meetings have been organized so far in Copenhagen (April 2017), Berlin (April 2018), and Rome (May 2019) on the implementation of ETFs by countries with GEF-funded CBIT projects. Participants have included numerous developing countries along with a number of donors, developed country parties, and civil society organizations (CSOs). At the same time, many GEF agencies have begun to assist countries in the implementation of national CBIT projects.

At the 2018 Berlin meeting, the CBIT GCP launched its namesake website (https://www.cbitplatform.org/). This web-based platform was established to promote peer learning among countries receiving CBIT support. CBIT projects in the GEF pipeline have country profiles on the platform, including key information about the projects, implementation progress, and the status of CBIT project activities and other transparency support initiatives. In addition, CBIT country-level projects have completed transparency self-assessments and have identified a CBIT focal point. Countries designing CBIT projects can use this assessment to guide the project design process and

countries implementing projects can use it to track progress in building capacity and to inform design of additional transparency projects.

In 2019, the CBIT GCP website had 484 unique visits on average per month from approximately 80 different countries. In addition to CBIT project countries, ten organizations have also registered to use the site; they are donors, international NGOs, and think tanks. The Coordination Platform has been operating since April 2018 and has fulfilled its objectives related to bringing together practitioners from countries and agencies in order to enable coordination of transparency actions and ideas, identify needs and gaps in national transparency systems, share lessons learned through regional and global meetings, and to facilitate access to emerging practices, methodologies, and guidance on transparency of climate action. As the terminal evaluation of the CBIT GCP project found, ?A user survey conducted by CBIT GCP at the annual technical workshop in Rome (2019) showed a good degree of satisfaction among users in terms of the utility of the contents and ease of use of the online platform across a variety of parameters. 48 percent mainly used the platform for checking information about CBIT national projects, 32 percent to find tools and methods and 20 percent for enhancing partnerships.?[11]

The CBIT GCP project finished in February 2020, and the terminal evaluation confirmed that there was a high demand for experience sharing and peer learning on transparency among developing countries. The evaluator recommended expanding and deeping opportunities for in Phase II, which has been incorporated into the project design. The evaluation also found that a significant proportion of countries with CBIT projects have used the resource on the CBIT web platform in their work.[12]

The GSP Mid-Term Review also confirmed a need for support regarding MRV, finding that ?The global functions carried out by GSP as well as consolidation and sustainability of the regional networks beyond 2020 depends on further funding, e.g. from the GEF. There is a potential risk of a gap which could threaten the networks and partnerships established, since GSP is scheduled for completion in 2020?.?[13] As a result of this finding and ongoing discussions with the GEF Secretariat, UNEP and UNDP proposed a Phase II to the CBIT project that could provide a one-stop source of support and a streamlined website to continue the work of the GSP and the CBIT Global Coordination Platform. A PIF for CBIT Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128) was approved under GEF-6 in 2018 and the corresponding CEO Endorsement Request for a mid-sized project was approved on July 12, 2021.

The GSP Mid-Term Review also made several strategic recommendations for the development of GSP activities over the medium term; i.e., a subsequent phase that would depend upon additional funding. They include establishing one or more regional networks in Asia and providing staffing support within Asia to strengthen engagement; and strengthening the voice of developing countries in project oversight by including a representative on the Project Steering Committee.[14] These elements are all included in proposed Phase II activities, but in the absence of funding support for Phase II, they will not be realized. In summary, there is an acute need to ensure sustainability and combined implementation of the CBIT GCP and the GSP beyond 2021. This need is clearly stated under

Paragraph 14 of Article 13 itself, which states that ?Support shall also be provided for the building of transparency-related capacity of developing country Parties on a continuous basis.?

At the same time, UNEP is aware that continuation of both the GSP and CBIT GCP as separate initiatives under the Paris Agreement is likely to create a duplication of effort. GSP was launched under the UNFCCC Convention, whereas the CBIT Global Coordination Platform was launched under the Paris Agreement. This fact is acknowledged in the Paris Agreement, whereby Paragraph 74(a) of the Paris Agreement clearly states that part of the 2016-2020 work plan should assess how to increase synergies through cooperation and avoid duplication among existing bodies [or initiatives] established under the Convention. Countries will be best able to address reporting requirements through unified tracking systems, and as they move towards unified frameworks, they will best be supported by a unified platform.

In addition to these initiatives, a 2019 analysis by the MRV Group of Friends identified 475 MRV / transparency activities undertaken by 21 donors. Several multilateral coalitions have emerged to support transparency.

For example, the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) is currently developing an integrated suite of 10 guidance documents on various aspects of transparency, ranging from sectoral guidance in renewable energy and forestry to reporting on non-state action and Sustainable development and transformational impact assessment. ICAT also provides Capacity-Building for MRV systems for transparency in 35 Partner Countries, working very closely with developing countries to strengthen their capacity to assess climate actions and report their progress in line with the Paris Agreement, based on individual country needs.

Furthermore, the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), which describes itself as a semi-formal forum, has had more than 100 countries participate in its activities, which include regional technical workshops and knowledge sharing. The Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), although not an implementing body, focuses on capacity gaps and needs.

The PCCB relies on volunteers, and its activities have included support for NDC implementation and cross-cutting issues, including gender equality. They have undertaken a six-country pilot exercise, and they a have a web-based capacity-building portal.

The Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for co-Innovation (PaSTI) was established in 2017 at COP23 as an initiative of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) in collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI). PaSTI is designed to provide value-added activities to existing initiatives on transparency, and it promotes engagement of the private sector and local government by identifying incentive mechanisms and developing critical tools. PaSTI has held several webinars on topics such as enhancing MRV in the private sector, and it held a side event at COP24.

Global initiatives linked to climate data on specific sectors, such as the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) or the Global Forest Watch, focused on the forestry sector, are also examples of relevant platforms contributing to transparency through sharing data and tools for monitoring.

Most recently, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary announced the launch of the **?Universal Participation in the ETF? initiative** in November 2020. The initiative is designed to bring together actors and actions geared towards the implementation of the ETF by all stakeholders.

The project will avoid duplication of effort by utilizing the Group of Friends to ensure donor communication, and it will continue the practice of including participants from other donors and transparency initiatives and projects to meetings and technical workshops.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;

Proposed Alternative Scenario

This project proposes to link two existing initiatives that provide comprehensive, coordinated support and services to countries and institutions. Although these initiatives support two different workstreams?reporting under the Convention and the ETF under the Paris Agreement?they address common institutions, common gaps and needs, and common elements of reporting. In fact, Paragraph 4 of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement states clearly that ?The transparency arrangements under the Convention, including national communications, biennial reports and biennial update reports, international assessment and review and international consultation and analysis, shall form part of the experience drawn upon for the development of the modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPGs) under paragraph 13 of this Article.? A linked approach will enable the provision of support to the existing workstreams in a more enhanced and coordinated manner, and it will also increase the efficiency of this assistance.

Project Approach

The proposed approach consists of **two projects that will merge the management and delivery of capacity development for transparency:** the proposed CBIT Phase II MSP (IIA, GEF ID 10128) and this Full-Sized Project (IIB, GEF ID 10088). Originally designed as a single Phase II project, the project was divided into two parts in order to ensure the allocation of funding that was available through the CBIT set-aside under GEF-6. Phase IIA focuses on a single, streamlined platform for knowledge delivery, support for knowledge products, and global stocktaking and dissemination of best practices?all elements that require funding early in Phase II.

This *Phase IIB* full-sized project will continue support for the integrated platform following the conclusion of the CBIT Phase IIA MSP, but it will also provide targeted technical support and training for developing country parties and south-south sub-regional networks and learning throughout its implementation.

The CBIT Phase II initiative, comprised of the Phase IIA and Phase IIB global projects, will use two main strategies in its approach. First, it will build on the successful foundation of ongoing delivery models and leverage long-standing South-South networks and relationships with developing countries. Its activities will draw upon successful approaches that have been identified and refined over time through feedback from consultations and external evaluations. The integration of the GSP and CBIT GCP support to countries under one single initiative will simplify country participation. The project will also continue to provide facilitation support for the delivery of the UNFCCC Secretariat work programmes and the work of the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) including new mandates and needs coming out of COP 26 and subsequent COPs.

Second, Phase II will use an agile approach to address new issues related to Article 13 as they arise. As with Phase I, it will maintain flexibility to be responsive to, and integrate, evolving COP guidance related to the Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines (MPGs) for the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Because the project emphasizes stakeholder collaboration, it will be able to mobilize experts and respond to changes in the climate policy landscape as they emerge. It is assumed that guidance regarding the MPGs will continue to develop, and the global program will be well positioned to disseminate information and provide support in complying with additional guidance from the COP.

Figure 4 provides an overview of the envisaged integration of the provision of information and technical assistance initially carried out by the CBIT GCP and the GSP into the unified global coordination platform.
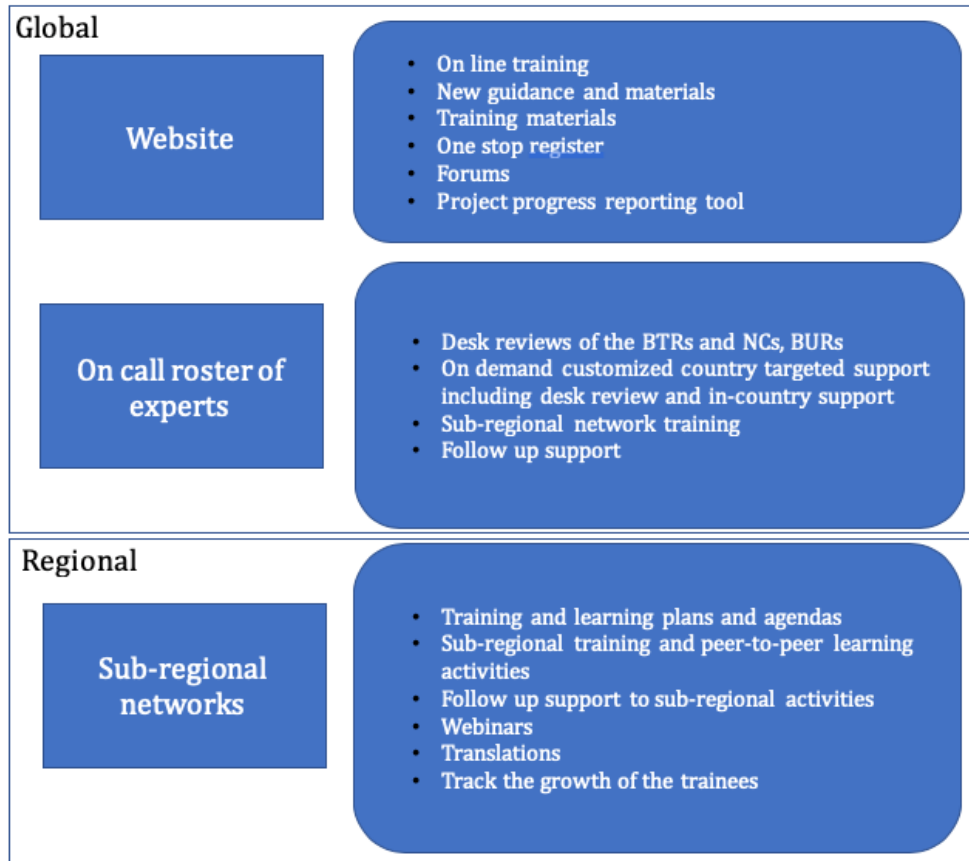
Figure 4: Regional and Global Elements of the Project

The integration is designed to provide *continuous support for countries through the end of Q4 of 2026 while avoiding overlap in activities.* It should be noted that the website maintenance and support activities in IIA and IIB will be sequential; i.e., IIB will begin to support these activities following the closure of IIA. Figure 5 provides an overview of the envisaged integration of the provision of information and technical assistance that has been carried out by the CBIT GCP and the GSP into the unified global coordination platform.
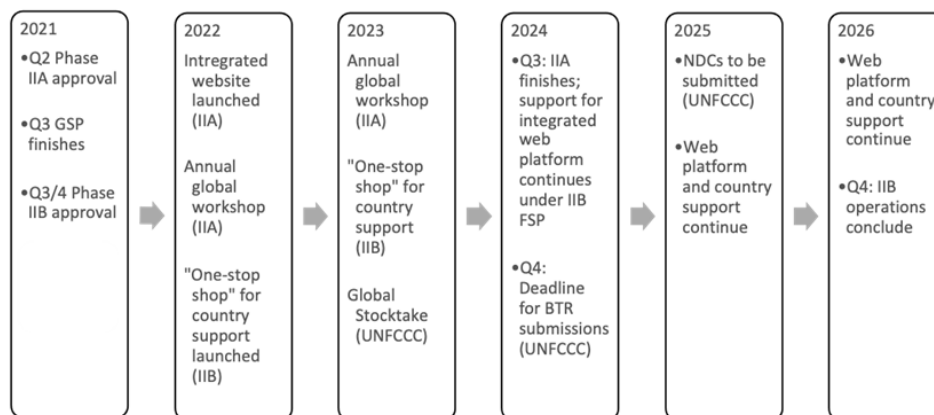
Figure 5: Proposed Timeline of Project Coordination

Due to the current timing of the project inception, UNEP will be able manage IIA and IIB as they were originally conceived; i.e., as a single initiative. The IIA MSP will merge the website and support global stocktaking and other side events, while the IIB FSP will merge the provision of services to countries. A single project management arrangement for both projects will ensure continuity and avoid overlap.

This proposed approach will be increasingly important as the size of the GEF portfolio of CBIT-funded projects grows. In addition to the CBIT projects that have already been approved, USD 164 million is earmarked for CBIT projects and enabling activities under GEF 7, and it is expected that GEF will continue to support CBIT projects under GEF 8. As of October, 2021, the total CBIT project portfolio had provided support to 79 countries through 75 individual country projects, one regional project, and five global projects. 65 projects have begun implementation. Of those 49 projects, six were from GEF 6 and the remainder were from GEF 7.[15]

Furthermore, in November 2020, the GEF announced guidelines for support for the preparation of BTRs in eligible countries to supplement current support for National Communications and BURs under its Enabling Activities funding allocation. However, this support is limited, and many developing countries will not have a CBIT project or BTR enabling activity but will nonetheless be required to submit a BTR in 2024. Phase II outputs and outreach strategies will be designed to maximize outreach and support to all developing country Parties, including guidance on BTR preparation under Output 1.1. To respond to the increasing needs for support coming out of COP 26, the project has included plans to provide support to countries in preparing their BTR funding proposal so as to help accelerating the transition from the BUR to the BTR.

As a result of this project approach, it is anticipated that at least 131 countries will benefit from Phase IIB information and support on request related to national reporting under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. Requests for support are by necessity country-driven, and Phase IIB will continue the approach from the CBIT GCP and the GSP of responding to countries on request as requests are received. In the event that project resources are not sufficient to provide customized support to all countries that have requested it, the Project Steering Committee will determine an approach to prioritizing country requests.

Project Strategy: The *overall objective* of the project is to provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees. The *outcomes* of the project are as follows: 1) Developing countries have increased capacity to undertake MRV and ETF activities; and 2) Developing countries increasingly access information and knowledge in support of Article 13.

The project is composed of three *components*: 1) Capacity strengthening for countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning; 2) Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13; and 3) Monitoring and Evaluation.

Component 1: Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements

Budget for Component 1: USD 5,567,324

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: Q1 of 2022

Outcome 1: Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities

Component 1 will expand human resources in the form of expert support, south-south cooperation, and learning. It will maintain continuity in the assistance to developing countries with inventories and reports following the conclusion of the GSP at the end of 2021, and it will expand expert support to include training and recommendations on implementing integrated transparency activities. In addition, it will deliver trainings and supporting knowledge products into country transparency activities under Article 13 through regional and sub-regional networks.

With the advent of reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, developing countries are facing a transition from project-based reporting in the form of National Communications and BURs to a continuous system of tracking and reporting on climate change activity. Countries undertaking GEF-funded CBIT projects will have a special role to play in this output, as they will be testing different approaches for coordinating their reporting on mitigation, adaptation, and other areas. In addition to disseminating their experience, this project will also provide *ad hoc* support to countries on request to support their capacity to integrate various existing MRV/transparency initiatives. As established in Phase II A, the project will continue to serve as a ?one-stop shop? for requesting assistance with country-level reports and transparency issues. Component 1 will support countries as they identify and recruit experts in information systems, data analysis, software engineering for database linkages, data management, and data visualization, and as they prepare tender documentation for the database engineering necessary to link existing MRV systems and ensure that they are compatible with Article 13.

The fundamental premise behind South-South networks is the mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions ? knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology, know-how, and resources. The existing regional and sub-regional networks established under the GSP were created to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices on appropriate institutional arrangements for MRV and to support capacity development activities and create awareness within national institutions responsible for data collection, inventory compiling and inventory archiving. These MRV/Transparency networks have produced results beyond initial expectations. Currently, there are 13 functioning regional and sub-regional networks that cover 131 countries in all world regions. While the original concept emphasized expanding the number of networks, two additional networks were established in 2019, six in 2020 and one additional will be piloted under Phase II A. Therefore, the addition of networks is now limited to Arabian peninsula countries, which will be addressed in Output 1.4. Output 1.2 now focuses on continuing network support to participating countries in an efficient way, which may include the eventual consolidation of some networks, as well as supporting the participation of additional countries in these networks.

Scheduling, travel, and logistics for any in-person assistance or events will adhere to relevant GEF and UNEP guidance regarding the COVID-19 global pandemic. The safety of project staff, contractors,

beneficiaries, other stakeholders, and hosts will be paramount in any decisions regarding in-person meetings and travel.

Output 1.1: Assistance provided to countries with ==development and== reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request.

The GSP and CBIT GCP projects have built relationships with developing countries that have in turn led to increased awareness, trust, and requests for support. Assistance provided will build on the types of on-call support that have been traditionally available for countries through the GSP; e.g. requests for specific expertise related to national reporting, pre-submission reviews of NCs and BURs, and preparation for ICA reviews. In addition to that ongoing support, countries will be able to request support for tracking the progress of NDC implementation, tracking support needed and received, and reviews of draft BTRs and their components, particularly inventories. ==Reviews and support provided for the development of BTRs will take into account the new reporting tables and outlines developed at COP 26.== ==It is expected that BTR support will be provided using the one-stop shop that will be established in 1.1.2.==

Assistance to countries on GHG inventories and NC/BUR==/BTR== studies is as important as ever; countries with strong reporting procedures and documentation have a tremendous advantage in formulating and monitoring robust NDCs. As of January 2021, GSP had assisted 72 countries in reviewing 45 GHG inventories, 21 NCs, and 18 BURs. In addition, the program has provided support to 26 countries with ad hoc requests, such as assistance in preparing terms of reference for technical experts. The continuation of this assistance will utilize the long-standing relationships built by the GSP and its predecessor the NCSP with national climate change experts and project teams, and this output will maintain and expand support mechanisms. Assistance provided will take into account the differing needs among developing countries ==as well as the new reporting provisions (BTR, NID outlines and common reporting tables)==. For example, countries with more advanced technical capacity may be able to provide peer support to other countries with larger capacity gaps. This type of support may be particularly effective within a single sub-region due to common languages and climatic conditions. Peer support will be a collective, multi-country process, utilizing the MRV/Transparency networks developed under Output 1.2, and it will also involve the inclusion of peer experts in the expert roster on the integrated web platform.

The project will place an emphasis on assisting countries with complying with the decision of COP19 that will require all parties to the Paris Agreement to use IPCC 2006 guidelines for national GHG inventories in the National Inventory Reports that form a mandatory component of their BTRs ==in addition to helping those countries who wish to use the IPCCC 2019 refinement in line with the COP==

As of August 2020, more than 25% of the 64 Non Annex I countries that had submitted at least one Biennial Update Report to date were still using the revised 1996 guidelines or a mix of the revised 1996 guidelines and the 2006 guidelines. It will be necessary to support the move to the 2006 guidelines not only among countries that have produced a BUR or BURs, but also with countries that previously have only produced one or more National Communications. All training modules and support will also take into account updated available methodologies, such as the 2019 Refinement of the 2006 guidelines and any other relevant guidelines that enter into effect during project implementation.

Note: Activities under this output will ensure that there is no gap in the expert assistance provided by the GSP to countries with GHG inventories and on NC/BUR draft studies. Therefore, they are designed to dovetail with the conclusion of the GSP in 2021 and will then take over the functions of that project that are related to the provision of expert support to countries and advisory support to all of the regional and sub-regional networks. Activity 1.1.6 will expand the scope of this expert assistance to cover BTRs. The project will ensure access to relevant information ensuring that the project website includes: a collection of relevant guidance notes on the main components of the BTR that have already been developed by relevant stakeholders, such as UNFCCC, CGE, ICAT, and others, as well as future technical and best practice guidelines. This activity will also support the elaboration of templates and a guidance notes to support countries accessing BTR resources provided by the GEF and other sources of support. .

Activities under this output include the following:

1.1.1   Draft annual workplans for providing support to countries in areas of reporting, including consensus on topics to be addressed (e.g. inventories, NC/BUR/BTR drafts, guidance and support during CGE reviews and subsequent Technical Expert Reviews of BTRs, ==facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress (FMCP)==, vulnerability & adaptation assessments, incorporation of the 2019 Refinement of the IPCC 2006 guidelines, NDC tracking, and reviews as needed).

1.1.2   Provide and coordinate support, through the one-stop shop, in response to country requests, including customized support that may not fall under the standard topics, which can be channeled through the global platform

1.1.3   Maintain and expand the expert roster for experts in fields related to Article 13 reporting, through the one-stop shop

1.1.4   Develop and implement a strategy to support peer review and peer collaboration for country reports and documentation where possible

1.1.5   Identify and analyze common reporting issues and NDC tracking among countries and address these issues in training materials and other knowledge products (webinars, audio briefing, web content, and the newsletter)

1.1.6 Provide technical guidance to countries in preparing BTRs taking into account the latest developments from COP 26.

Deliverables will include five annual workplans for review support; at least 10 reviews per year (45 in total) in response to country requests; an updated expert roster; a strategy to support peer review; a brief analytical report of peer support provided; two peer reviews, including preparation for ICA reviews (and subsequent Technical Expert reviews, or TERs, for BTRs); recommendations for knowledge products[16]; a lessons learned report on NDC tracking and common reporting issues; 4 to 5 BTR and/or BTR/NC funding proposals support per year; at least one technical and best practice guideline; and at least one webinar on BTRs.

The project will utilize the regional and sub-regional networks that are supported under Component 1.2 to reach countries with a broad variety of needs and across different regions.

Output 1.2: Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened

This component will support and strengthen existing networks or modify them for efficiency purposes, having common language as a key criteria, and it will support the engagement of new countries in MRV/Transparency networks.

An indicative list of the planned networks is shown in the table below:

Region	Participating Countries	Number of Countries
Spanish Speaking Latin America	Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile	15
Lusophone cluster	Brazil, Portugal (as provider), Mozambique, Angola, Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Ecuatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Timor Leste	9

Eurasia	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Moldova and Georgia,	8
Central Asia and Caucasus	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus	8
English speaking Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago	12
Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam	18
Pacific	Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nieu, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu	14
Anglophone Africa	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, , South Africa, Mauritius, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho, Eswatini, Seychelles, Zimbabwe;; The Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria,	23
Francophone Africa	Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Gabon, Mauritania, Madagascar, Djibouti, Mali, Senegal Cote d?Ivoire, Togo, Guinea, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone	18

The focus on regional and sub-regional networks and peer-to-peer learning under this component stems from the highly positive experiences that developing countries have had with the networks to date. Network involvement provides opportunities for learning from ongoing projects and for saving time and effort when undertaking procedures that are new to a country. Examples of benefits from the networks include the following:

•In West Africa, Togo was inspired by Cote d'Ivoire to submit a GEF CBIT proposal, and it gained a clearer understanding of its MRV system needs from Ghana's MRV experience. Ghana became aware of a relevant study from Benin on enteric methane with data applicable for Ghana, so that it did not need to carry out its own study.
•In Latin America, Argentina and Uruguay developed archiving and record-keeping systems for BURs inspired by Chile, and Argentina developed a platform for information sharing that was inspired by

Colombia. In addition, Uruguay is compiling booklets for communicating GHG Inventory information that were inspired by similar booklets in Colombia and Argentina.

Furthermore, six bilateral exchanges took place in 2019 alone and two in 2020 before travel restrictions related to COVID-19 were introduced. Bilateral exchanges have had two key benefits: 1) they have provided an opportunity to build the capacity of both parties; and 2) they have allowed countries to address common needs and gaps regarding climate change reporting. With the broadening of climate change MRV to encompass enhanced transparency frameworks, the networks play an important role in enhancing capacity for the assessment of the impact of policies, financial investment, technology transfer, and capacity building to the mitigation goals set in the NDCs. Many participating countries are seeking guidance and information on integrating GHG inventories with MRV systems with the objective of improving NDC tracking capacities in line with the enhanced transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement. The creation of MRV networks in collaboration with the UNFCCC created a new platform for cooperation between the Global Support Programme and the UNFCCC, and in several instances, network coordinators have been hosted in UNFCCC regional collaborating centres.

In 2020, a detailed survey of 94 network participants from 58 countries produced the following findings:

•An overwhelming majority of the respondents, 72%, considered information they received through the network exchanges on the overall preparation of NCs/BURs extremely helpful. A higher share of respondents, 84%, reported that information shared on MRVs components and GHGI was extremely helpful.
•More experienced network members contribute to the discussions, and respondents with lower levels of expertise appreciate their contributions. These two insights point out that heterogeneity in the levels of experience is leveraged and a value-added feature of the networks.
•Respondents with lower previous experience levels found that information disseminated over the network significantly challenged or changed their assumptions. This shows that the information provided in the network contributes to substantial learning outcomes for the members with lower levels of previous experience. Changes in awareness in preparation of MRV components/GHGIs were reported to be somewhat higher than that of change recorded for NCs/BURs.[17]

139 countries will be supported by network coordinators, an approach that is designed to maximize communication among the network members and minimize the time burden on developing country experts. Network coordinators will also be able to feed good practices and approaches to the other MRV/Transparency networks and to the global management team so that they can be distributed widely.

Activity 1.2.5 is directly linked with Output 2.2 in order to ensure that knowledge that is generated within networks can be disseminated and used by other countries, including those outside of a given network. The platform will develop specific sections for the networks linking to relevant information in other areas of the platform and providing a space for sharing information in the respective networks.

The existing project profiles and knowledge sharing mechanisms will feed into the designated regional and sub-regional sections of the platform, and most knowledge sharing and peer learning will hence go through these to support South-South knowledge sharing and peer learning efforts. In addition, network threads can be tagged and stored on the platform by topic, which will allow them to be accessed by project staff and all network coordinators. These features will allow the networks to share information and facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning in an efficient manner. Activities will be prioritized by country needs as determined through regional needs assessments based on self-reporting on the global coordination platform and surveys and consultations.

Activity 1.2.3 supports at least one virtually yearly coordination meeting for each network. Any face to face network coordination meeting will be organized back to back with the regional technical trainings that are developed and delivered under Output 1.3. These coordination meetings will provide an opportunity to assess the progress of each network and capacity buildings results for network members.

Activity 1.2.5 will support knowledge exchange among the regional and sub-regional network coordinators on the streamlined platform, which will allow them to share experiences in network moderation and to identify and share information on needs and gaps raised by their members with each other and with the project management unit (PMU). Experience can also be shared in the form of knowledge products such as video interviews with individual network members and good practice / lessons learned webinars.

Note: Activities under this output will ensure that there is no gap in the expert assistance provided by the GSP to countries currently participating in South-South networks and peer-to-peer learning. Therefore, they are designed to dovetail with the conclusion of the GSP in 2021 and will begin shortly thereafter.

Activities under this output include the following:

1.2.1   Recruit and appoint network coordinators[18] to animate the networks and oversee communications and logistical issues within selected networks.

1.2.2   Conduct a quick assessment of skills and knowledge gap and needs (on all relevant topics) for the implementation of the Paris rulebook (including the new developments from COP26) and country level participation in the enhanced transparency framework.

1.2.3   Facilitate regional network operations and help-desk function.

1.2.4   Organize network activities through annual work plans based on regional needs assessments.

1.2.5   Capture knowledge generated by the network and share it with project staff under Output 2.2 with a view to making it available to other regions and stakeholders in the form of webinars, audio briefings, web content, and other knowledge products.

Deliverables will include the appointment of network coordinators; a matrix of eligible country request categories that the project coodinators and network coordinators will respond to; 9 biennial rapid assessments that are updated at least twice during the project; the identification of 3 main priorities for each network and the inclusion of these priorities in the annual network workplans; monthly reports on all requests logged and responses to eligible requests; minutes for 9 network coordination meetings each year; lists of supporting organizations, including participating countries and contact details of nominated national focal points, for each network; a report of 3-5 country eligible matchmaking requests met annually; annual workplans for each network with quarterly targets; 26 trainings (delivered under Output 1.3) and all regional webinars tailored to regional needs; training and webinar agendas tailored to regional needs; two reviews per network per year; and five knowledge products that feature network learning and experience.

Output 1.3: Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified.

Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks are designed to strengthen both thematic knowledge and functional capacities in the participating member countries. For example, they already provide specific sectoral capacity development activities (e.g. training workshops, webinars, etc.). Linkages with Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiatives have also been established. This output provides a means of delivering the training and information resources to all participating countries.

Peer learning and mentoring currently take several forms?South-South, and North-South (bilateral or triangular)?and include ongoing professional advising. Training will be provided through different means, including peer learning (including mentoring and institutional twinning); tailor-made courses; specialized online courses, etc. Training and learning arrangements will be adapted to reflect the wide

variety of in-country capacity. Training modules will also build upon ongoing cooperation and new initiatives of other stakeholders, such as ICAT and the UNFCCC, where possible. Training characteristics under Phase IIB will include:

- A menu of options for training and capacity building, both in person and virtual
- A match-making facilitation that will respond to countries? requests
- Beginner to advanced specialized courses
- Certification of trainers and trainees, especially for those with potential and interest to become reviewers
- SIDS/ LDC-specific trainings

Approximately 26 training workshops at the regional and sub-regional level will utilize training modules and other resources developed under the CBIT Phase II A project and Output 1.3 of this project. As with Output 1.2, priority areas for network activity will be determined on the basis of regional and sub-regional needs assessments based on self-reported needs and gaps and consultations as well as new development in the reporting provisions at the UNFCCC level (including the outcomes of COP 26). In turn, feedback from the regional and sub-regional workshops will allow the modules to be improved, to incorporate country examples, and to identify areas where new guidance or training modules may be needed. Finally, this output also includes a professional development component for experienced experts from developing countries: strengthening their capacities to become members of the UNFCCC Team of Technical Experts (TTE) and to participate in other international activities related to the implementation of climate change policies and measures.

Virtual trainings will be utilized as needed. Due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the CBIT GCP and GSP projects held more than 50 virtual trainings in 2020. As many of these restrictions remain in place, virtual trainings will most likely be an important tool for the project. In fact, a number of participating countries have noted that participation in virtual events by government officials and experts has increased as work has shifted on line and people have been forced to work from home. That said, stakeholder feedback from the PPG stakeholder consultation revealed that on-line trainings may vary in effectiveness and user satisfaction even among countries in the same global sub-region. Decisions on training delivery will have to consider both global circumstances and country preferences.

The project will also conduct *ex post* surveys of workshop participants and other training participants at approximately six months following the training activity in order to measure results and uptake. These surveys will ask about the application of the skills and knowledge and about the enabling factors and barriers related to application. Results will be shared with project management as they are received to allow feedback to inform the selection of topics and approaches during project implementation.

Under this output, the project will also facilitate awareness raising and experience sharing at the global level towards universal participation in the ETF and optimal coordination with support agencies by organizing trainings or side events in global or regional events such as COP meetings or the regional climate weeks.

Notes: Activities under Output 1.3 will ensure that there is no gap in the expert assistance provided by the GSP to countries in South-South networks and peer-to-peer learning. Therefore, they are designed to dovetail with the conclusion of the GSP in 2021 and will begin in 2022. Scheduling, location, and content of training will be communicated to other stakeholders (see Section II.2) in order to coordinate efforts and leverage additional opportunities to provide training and information related to Article 13.

Activities under this output include the following:

1.3.1   Develop a training plan based on regional and sub-regional needs assessments that include self-reported information by countries on their priority needs as well as new development in the reporting provisions at the UNFCCC level (including the outcomes of COP 26), survey participating countries to confirm priority topics, and coordinate scheduling with regional and sub-regional network events and climate weeks

1.3.2   Obtain and distribute appropriate materials, training packages, and information resources to networks in support of in-country trainings and regional and sub-regional meetings and workshops and ensure that materials are available in the relevant language(s)

1.3.3   Deliver training to network participants through at least 26 regional or sub-regional workshops and peer to peer learning, such as mentoring, encouraging meaningful participation by both women and men, and refine the training based on participant feedback

1.3.4   Facilitate experience sharing, coordination and access to international experts and agencies on network-related topics as appropriate

1.3.5   Provide capacity strengthening, including training as needed, to support network member capacity (e.g. participation in the UNFCCC TTE)

Deliverables will include at least 26 training sessions at regional and sub-regional workshops, formal exchanges for learning relationships between countries and 5 coordination and experience sharing events linked to Climate Weeks or COP events.

Output 1.4. South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements

Under this output, specific support will be provided to the MENA region to assist countries with the proper tools and technical backstopping to comply with the existing and new reporting requirements. The MENA region is lagging behind on the implementation of climate change MRV and the enhanced transparency framework. There is a need to advance reporting in the region, build capacity, strengthen mitigation scenarios, and increase the availability of materials to stakeholders. In order to simplify management, this output focuses directly on the sub-region and includes a comprehensive approach to support. It is expected that as capacity in the sub-region is strengthened, the MENA transparency network could be merged with the North Africa network.

Activities under this output include the following:

1.4.1   Support preparation and submission of final BURs to meet existing MRV requirements (i.e. GHGIs and mitigation analysis) and submission of the BTRs in line of the provisions of the ETF and the outcomes of COP 26.

1.4.2   Conduct technical trainings to build capacity to meet future transparency requirements

1.4.3   Establish and support a sub-regional network focusing on the Arabian Peninsula

1.4.4   Develop and adapt training materials and guidance for publication in Arabic and French

Deliverables will include provision of technical expertise in the areas of GHGIs, mitigation analysis, and BUR and BTR compilation, at least three technical trainings per year in the MENA region, annual workplans for the MENA sub-regional MRV/Transparency network including 3 network meetings, and a variety of technical and policy publications related to enhanced transparency requirements translated into Arabic.

Component 2: Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13

Budget for Component: USD 487,483

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: September 2024

<u>Outcome 2: Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement</u>

Component 2 seeks to provide developing countries with a holistic source of information and knowledge related to transparency and the continuation of a platform for online peer learning. This component will utilize the project website developed under the CBIT Phase II A project to ensure that countries continue to have a one-stop source for information related to Article 13 following the end of that project.

This component will also continue to provide information on the Paris Agreement?s ?rulebook,? or the detailed rules and procedures that will govern its implementation, to maintain the flow of information to developing country parties following the end of the CBIT II A project. This project will provide vital information to signatories on how to report on their efforts related to climate change and the commitments that they have made in the form of Nationally Determined Contributions. In addition, the release of the rules will provide an opportunity to structure country-level transparency frameworks in such a way as to optimize reporting under other UNFCCC commitments.

Under this project component, the project will continue to develop and disseminate resources related to the Paris rulebook as they are needed, particularly the outcome of COP 26 and relevant subsequent COPs, such as those related to ETF and the linkage between Article 13 and Article 6 mechanisms. The annual workplans will allow the project team to provide support on guidance related to the Paris Agreement as the rulebook evolves.

The project team will ensure that knowledge products, including training modules, developed under this component are available to developing country participants in formats and languages that make them as user-friendly as possible. Specific activities will also support women?s active participation in knowledge generation and active use of the integrated platform.

Output 2.1   Integrated platform content and features managed and updated regularly

This output will maintain the new global platform that will replace the GSP website (www.un-gsp.org) and the CBIT GCP website (cbitplatform.org). As stated above, support for the platform through the Phase IIA MSP will conclude in 2024, and this output will continue the operation of the platform from that time through late 2026.

Good knowledge management of the integrated web platform created under the CBIT Phase IIA project will ensure that it is a valuable resource for countries seeking information and support. The survey during the terminal evaluation of the CBIT GCP project found that a majority of website users found all six areas of the website?s content/services to be ?very useful? or ?useful,? with those figures exceeding 80% for the tools, methodologies, and publications on the website.[19] There will be a need to edit and curate content, and to draft case studies and project summaries when necessary. Content development will be managed by the global level of the web platform, which will allow it to disseminate results from countries without adding to the time burden of country experts related to writing up results and sharing information. Other content will be developed by countries within the framework of their GEF CBIT projects.

Key features of the platform that will be introduced in the CBIT IIA project and continued under this IIB project are as follows:

- Country pages
- Country profiles (key info on inventory, NDC targets, etc. from NCs and BURS)
- All meetings
- Tools and guidelines
- Country's requests for support
- Published analytics data on the use of the platform

This output will ensure continuity in the knowledge and support provided by the project website following the conclusion of the CBIT Phase IIA project. The nature of the activities will remain the same. For example, the coordination and capacity-generating efforts of the project website will be made easily digestible for all practitioners through a quarterly "transparency snapshot." This knowledge will be disseminated through a factsheet, providing a regular summary of needs and gaps in line with information available in the platform's database. The project website will also facilitate peer-to-peer discussions among countries with limited capacity through a platform (?Experts Corner?) facilitated by both development partners and developing country Parties. The interactive presentation of highly-relevant topics will be continued.

Continued and regular engagement with the users is a key lesson learned from the CBIT GCP Webpage. Thus, after merging the two websites (CBIT GCP and the GSP website), re-engaging users will be key to maintaining and growing the users base. A plan for outreach to these users is integrated into the annual knowledge management plans, and will also build on the topics for content creation. A lesson learnt from the CBIT GCP is that the benefit and use for the different users need to be clear in order to prevent a perception of updating the website as an additional administrative burden, rather than a useful work tool. Furthermore, one of the lessons learnt from the CBIT CGP is the benefit of

continuously updating the content of the platform to keep users engaged and ensure continuous use of its resources.

The users of the new website will be invited to user guidance sessions, where the different features and functions of the website will be carefully explained. These will take place biannually to quarterly, depending on the amount of new users, and will be online sessions. Within the planned regional network meetings, room will be made in the agenda to showcase functions of the website. These sessions will also focus on identifying the varying need of the countries, and using this as input for the annual knowledge management plans.

The knowledge products generated in component 1, and under output 2.1 below, also constitutes a good opportunity to build strategic partnerships with other interested actors. In developing the knowledge products, it is possible to partner with active players within the climate transparency field. Using the website as a platform for webinars, the marketing of these webinars will also serve to remind users of the website, and its functions. These will also be showcased, when possible, during climate events, such as COPs or the regional climate weeks.

In order to have the broadest reach possible, the platform will also determine the best ways to provide content from the project website to users in low-connectivity environments. This may include developing a lower bandwidth version of the project website, designing interactive features that can be completed off-line, using audio clips in lieu of video, and maintaining the newsletter. All materials will also be available to be donwloaded in PDF format. The management of the platform will also take steps to encourage active engagement by women users: e.g., support articles and content written by women; encourage women?s participation in peer discussions; and recruit women experts to expert rosters) and track platform engagement by gender where possible.

Activities under this output include the following:

2.1.1   Develop an annual knowledge management workplan for routine content creation, maintenance, user outreach and communication, and curation on the integrated platform, including the progress reporting tool for participating CBIT countries on their activities and reports

2.1.2   Maintain and update the technical content of the project website, including search engine optimization

2.1.3   Track and analyze country queries, downloads, etc., in order to inform future content. Track platform engagement by gender where possible

2.1.4   Facilitate expert-moderated online peer learning / knowledge sharing through MRV/Transparency network coordination feature

2.1.5   Track platform engagement by gender where possible

Deliverables under Output 2.1 consist of three annual knowledge management plans for updating content on the project website, and periodic quantitative and qualitative reporting of the use of the project website including gender-disaggregated assessment when possible.

Output 2.2   Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized

This output is defined broadly to respond to emerging requirements, including those of Art. 6 and related to the Paris Rulebook. It is also worded generally, as other transparency/reporting initiatives have plans to produce guidance and knowledge products.

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As stated above, support for development of knowledge products through the Phase IIA MSP will conclude in August 2024, and this output will provide new and updated guidance and knowledge products from the conclusion of CBIT IIA through late 2026. Topics under Phase IIB include BTRs; the 2006 IPCC inventories guidelines; MRV elements in Art. 6, and MRV systems, including data collection techniques, storage options and analysis; tracking NDCs; long-term scenarios; mitigation scenario; using MRV systems to inform updated NDCs governance systems and institutional arrangements; tracking donor support received; establishing systems for MRV of finance; adaptation communications (stand-alone or as part of BTRs) and other policy and technical notes on environmental integrity, accountability, and trust.

Knowledge products will keep in mind a rights-based approach to information, including the principle of public access to environmental information. The project will endeavor to promote frameworks that are:

●Easily accessible to all users.
●Accessible to enable comparisons at the appropriate geographical scale and the participation of citizens.
●Available to the general public and at the national level in the relevant national language(s).
●Supported through common, free, open software standards.

The development of training materials and other knowledge products under Activity 2.2.3 will take into account a possible increase in the demand for remote learning due to travel constraints and budget constraints in countries due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Training materials will be designed in such a way that they can be delivered remotely when requested.

Activities under this output include the following:

2.2.1   Conduct intermittent needs assessments to identify priority knowledge gaps among developing country Parties

2.2.2   Develop a work plan for producing new guidance and training modules on emerging reporting issues and updates of existing handbooks and associated training modules on climate action MRV, NDC tracking systems.

2.2.3   Integrate good-practice templates and successful approaches to reporting issues from participating countries into training materials and other knowledge products (webinars, audio briefings, web content, etc.)

Deliverables under Output 2.2 consist of at least three new or updated guidance documents and related training modules related to climate action transparency, featuring topics such as Article 6 modalities, procedures, and guidelines (MPGs), information technologies for data management, such as blockchain, and others. They also include updated results from self-assessment questionnaires, and at least three annual webinars and good practice technical briefs delivered through the streamlined platform.

Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Budget for Component 3: USD 200,000

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: January 2022 (Q1 of the project)

Outcome 3: Project management and country approaches to reporting are informed by M&E

This component of the project will ensure that useful information can be collected during the course of project implementation and shared with project management, stakeholders, and beneficiaries as it becomes available. Activities under this component will comply with all current GEF and implementing agency standard practice and requirements. Existing evaluation tools to help measure the progress of a country?s ability to meet UNFCCC reporting obligations in a consistent manner will be taken into consideration.

Output 3.1 Project monitored to support results-based management

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. Mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies.[20]

Activities under this output include the following:

3.1.1   An external mid-term review

3.1.2   An external terminal evaluation

Deliverables will consist of an inception workshop and report, an annual review of project indicators, annual Project Steering Committee meetings, annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), a Mid-Term Review, and a Terminal Evaluation.

Output 3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated

The project team will use project monitoring to extract and disseminate lessons learned and good practices to enable adaptive management and upscaling or replication at local and global scales. Results will be disseminated to targeted audiences through relevant information sharing fora and networks. The project will contribute to scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks as appropriate (e.g. by providing content, and/or enabling participation of stakeholders/beneficiaries).

In order to improve the flow of information between CBIT and climate change EA projects under implementation, a series of good practices will be developed from CBIT projects and categorized. In addition, lessons learned from timely/late submissions of BURs and NCs will be systematized in order to support countries when planning NC/BUR/BTR development. These lessons will be made available on the platform and disseminated through the regional and sub-regional networks. In addition, knowledge products will highlight areas that are common to UNFCCC reporting for Non Annex I countries and Paris Agreement reporting for developing country parties. The knowledge management strategy for the project is presented in Section II.8.

Activities under this output include the following:

3.2.1.   Draft annual KM workplans

3.2.2   Produce and disseminate at least 10 lessons learned notes.

3.2.3   Assess the knowledge management mechanism at least twice a year and make recommendations on knowledge flow and KM practices as needed.

3.2.4   Develop a long-term sustainability strategy for KM/capacity creation

Deliverables will consist of five annual knowledge management workplans; 10 lessons learned notes; 8 assessments and recommendations on knowledge management; and a sustainability strategy.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

Alignment with GEF Focal Areas

The project is primarily aligned with GEF Focal Area CCM-3-8, ?Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through capacity building initiative for transparency.? However, it will also play an important role in advancing progress in GEF Focal Area CCM-EA, ?Foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through enabling activities,? through the integrated web platform and through technical assistance activities to support NCs and biennial reporting from 2022. In addition, training and network and peer-exchange activity in all components will directly support CCA-2, ?Strengthen institutional and technical capacities for effective climate change adaptation,? as many

developing countries have included an adaptation component in their NDCs and in GEF-funded CBIT projects.

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

Incremental/Additional Cost Reasoning

The underlying incremental reasoning for a global CBIT platform has not changed from the design of the preceding CBIT GCP and GSP projects. The CBIT Phase IIB proposal maintains the same focus as its predecessors: the generation of global public goods in form of coordination, knowledge generation, and the creation of a public knowledge repository, which by definition is free of access but still associated with a cost for the goods. In absence of GEF funding, it is highly likely that no funding will be made available for these global public goods despite the imminent need for them. Moreover, donor initiatives and country-level projects are generating useful, albeit dispersed, capacities. By emphasizing coordination, this proposal will be able to leverage individual ongoing and future initiatives by centralizing knowledge and making it broadly available. Consequently, this proposal provides an incremental value to a wide-ranging number of initiatives and efforts.

The terminal evaluation of the CBIT GCP project concluded that ?National Focal Points demonstrated an interest in the networking and sharing opportunities provided by CBIT GCP, but continuation in the future would require facilitation and financial support by international agencies; it is not something that developing countries can be expected to do without assistance.?[21] In the absence of the Phase IIB project, most developing countries would lose the conduit to peer review and expert advice and support that they have in the GSP and CBIT GCP projects. At the same, their reporting and transparency obligations would increase. Selected countries would receive support through the GEF CBIT window, and others might benefit from bilateral donors or CSOs, but this support would target national transparency initiatives, and expertise and good practice developed through these projects would not be shared at the regional and global level as through supported networks. As a result, many developing countries would be slow to receive this information, and they might lack the support to apply it. Overall, developing countries would have fewer resources with which to address increasing transparency demands and could consume them in an effort to essentially ?reinvent the wheel? with transparency activities, consuming valuable expertise and financial support that could be dedicated to furthering in-country mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The CBIT programme originated with Paragraph 84 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement, in which it decided to establish ?a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020? that ?will support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the

As such, this project is financed on full agreed cost basis. In the case of this programme, eligible activities have been described in the GEF document programming directions for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (GEF/C.50/06) and programming directions for Enabling Activities in the Climate Change Focal Area. The activities of this project are consistent with the scope of the programming directions. Co-financing is not a necessary requirement for this project; however, a total contribution of USD 500,000 has been leveraged.

*6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) **and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);***

Global environmental benefits

This project will ultimately contribute to enhanced ambitions in reducing GHG emissions. Improved coordination will generate synergies and avoid duplication across support initiatives and efforts, freeing resources for additional efforts in the global aim to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Similarly, the enhanced availability of knowledge through a centralized coordination platform will help countries increase their transparency capacity and, as a result, their capacity to report progress on their NDCs and long-term policy planning, providing for increased ambition.

In the area of climate change, the project will increase climate-related knowledge through improved GHG inventories and transparency frameworks and will disseminate good practice to developing countries, which will in turn allow them to undertake more robust mitigation activities. Specifically, the project is designed to provide direct benefits to a total of 1000 stakeholders, and of that, 500 women. This estimate is derived from the assumption that the project will provide support to at least 100 countries. Project beneficiaries will gain knowledge, skills, and experience that will allow them to improve reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement in their respective countries, which in turn will support the development of increasingly robust NDCs. Furthermore, capacity improvements related to climate change adaptation and guidance on including robust adaptation goals in NDCs will generate adaptation-related benefits, but they may also generate benefits in other global environmental areas, such as biodiversity and land degradation through improved REDD+ capacity.

This project is aligned with the UNEP Programme of Work (b) Countries increasingly adopt and/or implement low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and invest in clean technologies, more specifically to the output ?Technical support provided to countries to develop tools, plans and policies for low-emission development.?

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up;

Innovation, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling up ?

Innovation

The proposed Phase IIB project presents an innovative approach to support to developing country parties through its unified structure that combines support for multiple Convention-related commitments. The integrated web platform and training will also allow the project to be flexible and address changes in guidance from the COP regarding national reporting under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as they arise. Early phase support for BTR preparation is also highly innovative, as is the approach of working with countries on request to incorporate elements of the BTRs into their current reporting.

The project?s multi-level approach is also innovative. At the global level, it provides information and knowledge to all interested developing country Parties. At the same time, it also fosters regional and sub-regional exchanges and support to specific CBIT project countries. It then uses the knowledge gained from these interactions to contribute to the global platform. Finally, it encourages individual countries to share transparency-related knowledge and experience with their peers directly through the platform.

Finally, the project provides an unusually strong emphasis on South-South learning. The regional and sub-regional networks will allow countries to exchange relevant tools and experiences and also allow for some mentoring by developing country Parties with more experience in national reporting on climate change. These networks will also feed good practice upstream to the global platform, where it can be shared with developing country Parties and support providers in other regions. Regional and global events, which will be scheduled to coincide with other climate-related events, may also draw additional countries beyond those receiving EA and CBIT support from the GEF and will allow the Phase IIB project to expand the audience for its training tools and information.

Sustainability

The project approach emphasizes sustainability in several ways. It directly supports the *social dimensions of sustainability* through capacity strengthening activities for policy-makers and technical experts in beneficiary countries. Component 1 of the project includes specific activities to develop pools of national and regional experts, who will be able to support MRV/transparency activities in other Non Annex I countries. Experience from previous GEF-funded initiatives indicates that countries seek sustained contact with experts from whom they can learn. In this way, CBIT Phase IIB will support a move towards continuous cooperation among Non Annex I countries. Strengthening individual capacity and providing support for MRV/Transparency network participants that are ?fast movers? will establish human resources that can contribute to climate action after the project has concluded.

Support for active and organic peer networks in Component 1 will also lead to durable relationships among experts in network regions. Furthermore, Component 2 will support the preservation of information that has been gathered to date under the CBIT GCP and GSP projects and information that will be gathered under the Phase IIA project, which will extend access to this information through the 2019-2024 ?preparatory phase? for Article 13 reporting and beyond. This arrangement will maintain continuity and allow countries access to valuable transparency-related information.

The project also supports social dimensions of sustainability indirectly though its close alignment with the MPGs under the Paris Agreement. Countries have expressed their commitment to the agreement and will continue to utilize expertise in transparency from project-trained experts following the conclusion of the project. Furthermore, the project directly encourages countries to enhance and embed enhanced transparency frameworks into their institutional frameworks, which will put procedures into place that will last long after Phase IIB finishes.

The project will so support the *economic dimensions of sustainability* by providing information to countries on resource mobilization for transparency activities, either from donors or from other sources, including capturing efficiencies in ongoing national statistical activities where possible. CBIT Phase IIA incorporated meetings with donors as part of its global technical workshops, and this practice of increasing awareness of resources for transparency activities will continue under this project. Finally, activities under Component 1 and Component 3 will explicitly seek continued financial support for project-related activities in order to ensure continuity of the services provided following the closure of this project.

In terms of impacts, this project will increase the ownership role that national institutions play in MRV and transparency activities, which increases the likelihood that countries will support continuous MRV systems and will move towards the utilization of the information they generate for national policy-

making purposes. All of these intermediate impacts will increase mitigative capacity and support GHG mitigation in participating countries.

Scaling up

The project itself represents the scaling up of activities implemented under the GSP and CBIT GCP projects, but it also has strong potential to expand. For example, the number of countries reached by the regional and sub-regional networks can increase as additional countries identify areas where they may benefit from south-south cooperation. It could also address other Convention-related requirements or initiatives as they arise. Finally, the knowledge products and support for countries that are implementing GEF-funded CBIT projects will be highly relevant to the many Non Annex I countries who will not receive CBIT funding from GEF but who still need to meet reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. There will be a significant demand for the tools and methodologies developed under the national projects, the global project, and other global CBIT projects, such as the FAO-GEF global project on agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) and the Conservation International (CI)-GEF project on forestry. By sharing knowledge products from all of these projects through the unified platform, the project will create synergies and broader scaling up.

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[1] https://unfccc.int/initiative-of-universal-participation-in-the-etf

[2] Source: DTU/UDP, 2019. *Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement?s Enhanced Transparency Framework.*

[3] Source: DTU/UDP, 2019. *Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement?s Enhanced Transparency Framework.*

[4] The national inventory report (NIR) consists of a national inventory document (NID) and the common reporting tables.

[5] Decision 3/CP.25 (2019). Enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan.

[6] UNDP-UNEP (2020): 11-12. Other areas for support included modelling tools, NDC tracking, adaptation reporting, and gender mainstreaming.

[7] GEF-UNEP-UNDP-DTU/UDP-Global Coordination Platform. ?Existing capacities and barriers faced by Parties and key

stakeholders alike in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.? Output 3.1.3 of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (Phase I).

[8] UNFCCC 2021 data, as of 14 July 2021.

[9] GEF ID 5141.

[10] Prasada Rao (2018) Mid-Term Review.

[11] UNEP Evaluation Office (2021) Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/UNDP/GEF Project CBIT GCP: 29-30.

[12] Ibid.: 10-11.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Ibid.

[15] GEF (October, 2021) The Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

[16] Design and production of these knowledge products is supported under Output 2.2. (Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized).

[17] Rende (2020) *Assessment of Learning Outcomes in Regional Climate Action Networks*: 5-6.

[18] The Part II, section 1a.2 of the CEO Endorsement Request provides information on the background of the network coordinators and country coverage. This project seeks to maintain continuity in network coordination where possible. With the exception of agency staff, the coordinators? contracts end with the operational closure of the GSP project.

[19] UNEP Evaluation Office (2021) Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/UNDP/GEF Project CBIT GCP: 32.

[20] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

[21] UNEP Evaluation Office (2021): 10.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The proposed project is a global project, and it will involve the participation of developing countries around the globe.
1c. Child Project?

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

NA

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

NA

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Table 3 provides an overview of the project stakeholders and their envisioned role in the project.

Table 3: Key Stakeholders

Name of Institution	Type of Stakeholder	Role in the Project
UNEP	Implementing Agency for the project	UNEP is a GEF implementing agency that will also serve as the implementing agency for this project. It will play a key role in facilitating coordination and knowledge sharing among the national CBIT projects in its GEF portfolio. UNEP, along with DTU/UDP, will use stocktaking exercises and meetings under the CBIT Phase IIA MSP project (GEF ID 10128) to coordinate with other stakeholders addressing transparency issues.

Technical University of Denmark/ UNEP DTU Partnership	Executing Agency	DTU through UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP) will serve as an executing agency. DTU/UDP will also provide co-financing for capacity building and analytical support related to transparency, particularly in the area of adaptation, and for project management. DTU/UDP, along with UNEP, will use stocktaking exercises and meetings under the CBIT Phase IIA MSP project (GEF ID 10128) to coordinate with other stakeholders addressing transparency issues.
UNDP, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Conservation International (CI), and others	International Organisations and NGOs that act as GEF implementing agencies on Transparency	Other GEF implementing agencies will share materials developed through other global CBIT projects and will coordinate on training. The CBIT Phase II project can collaborate and also serve as a means of disseminating information resources, guidance, and good practice from the FAO-GEF and FAO FRA projects on agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) following that project?s scheduled conclusion. Finally, the project will provide a broader means of distribution for training materials developed under country-level CBIT project implemented by other agencies (e.g. CI?s projects in Liberia, Madagascar, Rwanda, and Uganda, as well as future projects that are currently in the GEF pipeline). Feedback on project activities was requested from FAO and CI during the project preparation period, and both organizations provided comments and feedback. UNDP has an important role to play sharing information related to its national projects, as well as materials developed through other GEF projects. UNDP is the second GEF implementing agency with more national CBIT projects. It also supports countries with National Communications and BURs implementation. In addition, through its Climate Promise, UNDP supports120 countries on NDC implementation based on green COVID-19 recovery measures as well as leveraging UNDP?s strength through measures that align UNDP?s broader portfolio with the Paris Agreement and NDCs. The project team will involve those project managers and experts in global platform meetings and activities. GEF implementing agencies working on Transparency will be invited to the Project Steering Committee.

Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV	Other transparency support initiatives	The information available through the library and other sections of the integrated web platform and the development and content of training modules will be coordinated with a network of existing transparency support initiatives. The integrated web platform will contain links to databases and on-line tools that have been developed through these partnerships.
Countries with GEF-funded CBIT projects	National governments	Participating countries will provide information regarding their national CBIT project, participate in knowledge exchange, collaborate in the creation of content for the platform.
Development partners	International Organizations, institutes and NGOs, and developed country governments	Development partners will coordinate existing and upcoming support to develop national capacity globally to support countries meeting the reporting requirements of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. In addition, the project will exchange information and collaborate with these partners; e.g. the Global Forest Watch and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES, which was consulted during the project preparation period) who maintains a BUR database and proposes the Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) which is a good example of south-south collaboration and peer exchange. The project will also exchange information and explore collaboration with CSOs such as Adelphi, the Stockolm Environmental Institute and Dan Church Aid; as well as with regional and sub-regional CSOs; e.g. with Fundaci?n Bariloche for the Latin America and Caribbean region, Instituto Mora in Mexico, Funda?ao Brasil no Clima;. the Energy and resource Institute in India. (TERI), International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), African Climate Change Research Center (ACCREC). Non-governmental actors at the country level are expected to benefit through the increased availability and quality of climate change information and through more robust NDCs.

| UNFCCC | International organization | The UNFCCC and its secretariat will play three important roles in project implementation. First, the secretariat will serve as a provider for capacity building related to the UNFCCC. Second, the Secretariat, which houses the 24-member Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and its e-Network, will exchange information with the project. Third, it will play a facilitating role in the implementation of the Convention.

The project will also cooperate closely with the ?Universal Participation in the ETF? initiative, which was launched by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary in November 2020. The initiative is designed to bring together actors and actions geared towards the implementation of the ETF by all stakeholders. Particular areas where a two-way flow of information may be beneficial include South-South cooperation and mobilization of support for domestic capacity strengthening. |
| UNFCCC Parties | All countries | All parties to the UNFCCC are expected to provide information and participate in discussions and information exchanges. NAI / Developing country Parties will request technical support from the project under Component 1.

A representative of one developed and two developing countries government will serve on the Project Steering Committee (see Section II.6 and Annex J). |

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

Meetings and workshops conducted over the course of the CBIT GCP project have provided ample opportunity to consult with project stakeholders regarding Phase IIB. In addition, two other GEF Implementing Agencies and several CSOs (with equal participation by women and men) were consulted in August 2018 specifically regarding the design of the Phase IIA and IIB projects. These consultations affirmed the proposed project activities and provided information on current donor and CSO activities. No objections to any proposed activities or approaches were raised. Furthermore, at the PIF stage, the May 2019 GEF Technical Workshop held in Rome and the accompanying meeting on enhancing donor coordination in transparency provided an additional opportunity to solicit feedback from participating countries, donors, and representatives of CSOs. General themes in consultations included a high interest in information exchange both among donors and participating developing countries. Other indications of country interests and priorities were gathered from the GEF 2018 analysis of CBIT country projects, in which 100% of participating countries sought support for capacity building and training, 88% for transparency policy design, and 80% for MRV systems.[1] These

priorities have been taken into consideration in the scope of knowledge products described in Section II.8 of this document.

In July 2020, the PPG team consulted with two GEF Implementing Agencies (in addition to ==UNEP and UNDP==) and two CSOs ==(Conservation International and Greenhouse Gas Management Institute)== on the project approach and activities for Phase IIB. These consultations affirmed the proposed project activities and provided information on current donor and CSO activities. No objections to any proposed activities or approaches were raised.

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[1] GEF (2019) Progress Report on the CBIT: 5.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) Yes

Information exchange; training provision; consultation; work planning, participation in meetings and workshops.
3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Developing country parties of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement vary in terms of gender equality and women?s empowerment. According to the Gender Development Index (GDI) data for 2017, the global GDI value is 0.941, while the average value for least developed countries is 0.868.[1] It should be noted some countries with national CBIT projects have GDI values higher than the global average, while others have values that are lower.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2018,[2] the global gender gap score, another measure of parity, is currently 68%. The 2018 report notes that ?Across the four subindexes, on average, the largest gender disparity is on Political Empowerment, which today maintains a gap of 77.1%. The Economic Participation and Opportunity gap is the second-largest at 41.9%....?[3] Again, developing country Parties vary widely in their scores and in some cases have achieved high levels of parity by global standards; for example, Nicaragua and Rwanda are fifth and sixth in the global rankings, respectively.[4]

Developing country Parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement have all adopted the 2030 Agenda, which includes SDG 5: ?Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.? Under this goal, countries are to achieve nine specific targets that include the following relevant targets for this project: ?Ensure women?s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life;? and ?Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.? The 2030 Agenda process monitors progress towards the targets that have been established.[5]

As the introduction to the 2017 UN Women guidebook *Leveraging Co-Benefits between Gender Equality and Climate Action* notes, ?Gender mainstreaming is not simply about adding a ?women?s component.? Gender mainstreaming is about thinking differently, modifying climate and development interventions so that they will benefit men and women equally. It is about transforming social, economic and institutional structures towards gender equality and women?s empowerment in climate action and resilience building. The impacts of climate change, including on access to productive and natural resources, amplify existing gender inequalities. Climate change affects women?s and men?s assets and well-being differently in terms of agricultural production, food security, health, water and energy resources, climate-induced migration and conflict, and climate-related natural disasters. At the same time, women are powerful change agents to address climate change at scale. They are key actors in building community resilience and responding to climate-related disasters. Women tend to make decisions about resource use and investments in the interest and welfare of their children, families, and communities.?[6]

The UNFCCC Gender Action Plan was established under UNFCCC 3/CP.23 Section E of the Action Plan specifically focuses on monitoring and reporting, and it states that ?The GAP seeks to improve tracking in relation to the implementation of and reporting on gender-related mandates under the UNFCCC.?[7] The Paris Agreement has highlighted gender equality and women?s empowerment as a guiding principle and called for adaptation and capacity-building actions to be implemented in a gender-responsive manner. In November 2019, the enhanced Lima work programme on gender

(LWPG) and its gender action plan (Decision 3 / CP.25) provide guidance to parties. Two of the LWPG priority areas are of direct relevance to this project: Priority A, which involves "enhancing the systematic integration of gender considerations into climate policy and action and the application of understanding and expertise to the actions called for under the Lima work program," as well as calling for steps to "facilitate outreach, knowledge-sharing and communication of activities undertaken to enhance gender responsive climate action and its impacts in advancing women?s leadership, achieving gender equality and ensuring effective climate action;" and Priority D, which is aimed at gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation through "sharing experience and support capacity-building on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate; exchange information on lessons learned among parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate (e.g. information on results, impacts and main challenges), and on the actions that parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto, as appropriate, and enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors, to better inform gender responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate."

In 2016, 40% of the (I)NDCs mentioned women and/or gender in the context of their national priorities and ambitions for reducing emissions.[8] However, developing countries will require support in monitoring progress regarding these ambitions. In the area of reporting, a number of developing countries do not mention gender equality issues/ priorities in their National Communications and BURs. Revised NDCs and the advent of BTRs will necessitate capacity strengthing in developing countries related to gender equality and women?s empowerment as they relate to reporting and transparency. At the same time, a number of developing country Parties have experience in improving gender parity at a national level that is relevant to others.

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[1] The GDI is a measure that is based on the sex-disaggregated Human Development Index, which is defined as a ratio of the female to the male HDI. As such, the GDI is meant to identify gender inequalities in three basic dimensions of human development: health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). Data available at: http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI

[2] The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) of the World Economic Forum examines the gap between men and women in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival; and political empowerment. Available at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf

[3] World Economic Forum (2018) The Global Gender Gap Report 2018: vii.

[4] Ibid.: 7.

[5] http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-5-gender-equality/targets.html

[6] UN Women (2017). ?New Guidebook Launched to Boost Gender Mainstreaming.? https://unfccc.int/news/new-guidebook-launched-to-boost-gender-mainstreaming.

[7] UNFCCC (2018). FCCC/CP/2017/11/Add.1: 16.

[8] International Union for Conservation of Nature and United States Agency for International Development (2016)

The Paris Agreement has highlighted gender equality and women?s empowerment as a guiding principle and called for adaptation and capacity-building actions to be implemented in a gender-responsive manner. In 2016, 40% of the INDCs mentioned women and/or gender in the context of their national priorities and ambitions for reducing emissions.[1] However, developing countries will require support in monitoring progress regarding these ambitions.

The current project builds on a foundation of women?s participation that has been established by the CBIT GCP project: at present, women and men are participating in the global technical workshops and in the workshop panels in equal numbers. The current project will also be able to draw on existing resources and networks to support capacity strengthening related to gender and climate change.

In particular, the CBIT IIA project (GEF ID 10128) has a dedicated output designed to support countries in mainstreaming gender equality into transparency activities (Output 2.4: Assistance provided to countries with integrating the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan into enhanced transparency frameworks). CBIT IIA will update the Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit[2] developed under the GSP, which will serve as a foundation for the development of gender mainstreaming in transparency activities under this IIB project. The toolkit makes the process of reporting more transparent in terms of who is involved, whose views are represented, gender-differentiated risks, and the types of support men and women need to influence climate adaptation, mitigation, policymaking and reporting. It can also be used to build capacity for gender analysis of key climate change issues that are reported on in NCs.

The GSP has also supported network activities on gender and MRV, such as the sub-regional workshop ?Supporting the integration of gender considerations into MRV/transparency processes in the Western Balkan Countries,? which took place in December 2017 for countries in Southeastern Europe. In addition to gender-related activities undertaken through GSP support for regional and sub-regional networks, activities related to gender mainstreaming are also taking place at the country level under

CBIT MSP projects. The CBIT Phase II project will draw from their experiences and allow for the dissemination of good practices.

Activities in each component of this project include explicit language on supporting women?s meaningful participation in project activities. Content and materials that are developed under these outputs will be made available to a broad audience through the integrated web platform, on-call support, and MRV/Transparency networks and trainings.

M&E activities will request gender aggregated data and will consider whether project activities and/or benefits have had differentiated results by gender. Project results monitoring will include one GEF core indicator that is gender-disaggregated (number of beneficiaries) and two outcome-level indicators that address gender mainstreaming in transparency activities.

In the area of project management, gender equality will be promoted during all project?s recruitment of personnel/consultants. All advertised positions will be equally opened to both genders and the text on term of references will be carefully checked to avoid any gender stereotypes.

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[1] International Union for Conservation of Nature and United States Agency for International Development (2016)

[2] The Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit is accessible through this link:
http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documentos/undp_gender_responsive_national_communications_toolkit.pdf

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.

As the project is focused on improving the capacity of governments to undertake transparency obligations, the private sector will not be a direct beneficiary of the project. However, there are private-sector research and consultancy firms (including for-profit subsidiaries of academic institutions and NGOs) with considerable experience in designing and building MRV systems. The project will use this expertise where necessary to train trainers, develop reference methodologies and tools, and present on state-of-the-art systems development.

In addition, the private sector will be engaged indirectly in three ways: 1) GEF-CBIT project countries will share experiences related to activities involving the private sector at the country level in transparency-related activities; 2) the project team will develop and disseminate methodologies and tools that address reporting from private sector actors to national GHG inventories using IPCC 2006 guidelines (e.g., industry surveys for activity data); and 3) Countries will identify investment priorities for climate change policies and measures (PAMs).

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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):

Table 4 provides an overview project-related risks and how they will be addressed.

Table 4: Project Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Level of Risk	Approach to Risk Mitigation
Operational: The integrated platform is not perceived as relevant by users and fails to maintain site traffic	Probability=1 Impact=3 (Low)	Although the number of internet platforms dedicated to climate change topics continues to increase, the GSP and CBIT GCP websites already have a specific audience, and the integrated platform will continue to provide content (e.g. the expert roster, updates on CBIT projects, and on-line requests for technical support) that is not available elsewhere.

Political: Guidance from the UNFCCC changes due to the results of further climate change negotiations	Probability=3 Impact=1 (Low)	1) The project will focus on the elements of effective MRV and transparency: activity data, analysis, quality control, and mainstreaming climate change information into decision-making. The project will support systems and practices that strengthen capacity in these areas, allowing countries to re-configure their outputs in response to changing reporting requirements. 2) Close collaboration with the UNFCCC, as has been the practice with the current CBIT GCP and GSP projects, will also be important.
Operational: Regional and sub-regional workshops fail to attract sufficiently high-level decision- makers and practitioners	P=2 I=3 (Moderate)	Experience with regional and sub-regional networks to date has indicated that high-level decision-makers and practitioners will attend when the topics are relevant and emerge from active network discussions. Network participation, which will be supported under Phase IIB, increases interest and commitment to meetings. Meetings that include participants from other regions will also increase interest in high-level decision-makers and practitioners, particularly those from ?fast-mover? countries that might not see as much added value in standard training.
Operational: Experts in participating countries are overworked and will not have enough time to participate meaningfully in the networks and information exchanges supported by the project	P=2 I=3 (Moderate)	1) The use of MRV/Transparency network coordinators eases the workload of experts by providing practical solutions to develop transparency frameworks that can address multiple reporting commitments. 2) Knowledge management and networks will be supported through the projects to minimize the time burden of sharing information on in-country experts. 3) The 2020 survey of 94 network participants found that both inexperienced and experienced professionals were interested and participating in the regional and sub-regional MRV networks.
Political: High turnover of participants due to high turnover of political appointees and civil servants in participating countries	P=3 I=2 (Moderate)	1) The availability of strong documentation and codification of knowledge in regional languages under the project will ease the transition between experts and decision-makers. 2) Training and networking meetings will be scheduled throughout the project implementation period, exposing new participants to resources and contacts without a long waiting period. 3) MRV/Transparency network coordinators and resources on the streamlined platform will provide ?onboarding? support as needed.

Operational: Project delays, constraints, or capacity-related risks related to the COVID-19 global pandemic	P=4 I=2 (Moderate)	Short-term constraints on travel and group gatherings have been taken into account in project planning, and on-line or remote learning and communication options will be used where necessary. Countries will be supported in considering longer-term economic impacts of the pandemic in the analysis that underpins their reporting, including gender-differentiated impacts.
Climate: Extreme weather events could affect in-person meetings and might affect data storage facilities and, indirectly, fiscal capacity of governments to support transparency activities.	P=2 I=1 (Low)	Possible constraints on travel and group gatherings have been taken into account in project planning, and on-line or remote learning and communication options will be used where necessary. Capacity support to countries on transparency issues will include guidance on data storage and archiving that take climate risk (and other risks) into account. Strengthened capacity for reporting will help participating country governments to use limited resources efficiently.
Social: MRV systems design using proprietary software or restricted access to data could exacerbate inequalities in access to information, particularly access to environmental information for decision-making.	P=1 I=3 (Low)	Technical support provided under Component 1 for transparency frameworks will promote open data, non-proprietary software, and public access to data and information. The knowledge products developed and disseminated under Output 2.2 will incorporate a rights-based approach to access to environmental information, and principles guiding this work have been included in that output.

The project risk rating is ?low risk.? Guidance under this project will be related to data collection and analysis and will not involve any recommendations related to land use, ecosystems, resource management, infrastructure, etc. However, there is an operational risk that travel to or from areas where COVID-19 is prevalent could pose a risk to project staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries. The project team will take active steps to mitigate this risk, including familiarization with and adherence to any relevant pandemic-related guidance for projects that is issued by GEF or either GEF implementing agency. The Project Coordinator will report on compliance to the Project Steering Committee and take any necessary steps to protect the health of staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries required by the situation.

The following table provides an overview of the integration of issues and concerns related to the COVID-19 global pandemic into the design and implementation of the project.

Table 5A: COVID-19 Action Framework

Project Element	Description of Consideration/Integration of COVID-19 Issues and Risks
Project Approach	Health and safety of all project staff, contractors, and beneficiaries is considered paramount, and project activities and implementation arrangements have taken these concerns into consideration.
	Remote/virtual support in the form of e-mails, calls, and webinars already forms an important part of capacity support activities under the CBIT and GSP initiatives. The project has been designed to continue and expand the provision of that support as necessary. The activities and staffing arrangements of the project as proposed will allow it to manage a possible re-instatement/increase of containment measures related to the COVID-19 global pandemic without a significant effect on project implementation.
	Indirectly, the project can support green recovery initiatives in participating countries by providing them with information and capacity-strengthening tools to quantify the benefits of low-carbon development.
Project Components	Component 1: Scheduling, travel, and logistics for any in-person assistance or events will adhere to relevant GEF, and UNEP guidance regarding the COVID-19 global pandemic. The safety of project staff, contractors, beneficiaries, other stakeholders, and hosts will be paramount in any decisions regarding in-person meetings and travel.
	In addition, virtual trainings will be utilized as needed. Due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the CBIT GCP and GSP projects held more than 50 virtual trainings in 2020. As many of these restrictions remain in place, virtual trainings will most likely be an important tool for the project. In fact, a number of participating countries have noted that participation in virtual events by government officials and experts has increased as work has shifted online, and people have been forced to work from home.
	Component 2: The development of training materials and other knowledge products under Activity 2.2.3 will take into account a possible increase in the demand for remote learning due to travel constraints and budget constraints in countries due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Training materials will be designed in such a way that they can be delivered remotely when requested.
	In addition to monitoring and mitigating risks related to the pandemic, the project will also support pandemic-related analysis as it relates to transparency efforts in developing countries. For example, countries will be supported in considering longer-term economic impacts of the pandemic in the analysis that underpins their reporting. Information and tools will also support efforts to integrate climate concerns into ?green recovery? and ?build back better? initiatives that may be included in reporting on support provided / support received and on gender and climate.

Monitoring & Evaluation	M&E activities will incorporate any relevant GEFand/or UNEP guidance regarding adopting remote monitoring approaches and for M&E procedures as a whole during the COVID-19 global pandemic.
Stakeholder Consultation	Stakeholder consultations were held remotely, and the Knowledge Management strategy can be implemented remotely as necessary.
Project Management and Staffing	Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will follow all agency guidance from GEF and/or UNEP relating to staff travel during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which may necessitate remote meetings. Under the Terms of Reference for the Project Coordinator (PC), the PC shall ?Perform regular progress reporting to the PSC as agreed with the PSC, including measures to address challenges and opportunities including measures to protect the health and well-being of project staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic.?
Risk Analysis	The project risk table (Table 4) includes the risk ?Project delays, constraints, or capacity-related risks related to the COVID-19 global pandemic? and propose steps to mitigate this risk. The project risk rating is ?low risk.? Guidance under this project will be related to data collection and analysis and will not involve any recommendations related to land use, ecosystems, resource management, infrastructure, etc. However, there is an operational risk that travel to or from areas where COVID-19 is prevalent could pose a risk to project staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries. The project team will take active steps to mitigate this risk, including familiarization with and adherence to any relevant pandemic-related guidance for projects that is issued by GEF and/or UNEP. The Project Coordinator will report on compliance to the Project Steering Committee and take any necessary steps to protect the health of staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries as required by the situation.

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.

UNEP will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IAs) for the entire CBIT Phase II initiative, consisting of CBIT IIA (2021-2023, GEF ID 10128) and Phase IIB (2022-2027, GEF ID 10088), and it is responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as written in this CEO Endorsement Request document, or any amendments agreed.

Implementing Arrangements: UNEP will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for this project and is responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as written in this CEO Endorsement Request document, or any amendments agreed. UNEP will act as the implementing agency through the UNEP Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) unit that will appoint a Task Manager (TM).

Executing Arrangements:

For the whole project, UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP) will be the executing agency. In agreement with the GEF, UNEP DTU Partnership (DTU/UDP) expects to sub-contract UNDP in order for UNDP to carry out the MENA activities. If circumstances change, the executing agency will consider alternative options.

A detailed description of the implementing and executing arrangements is included in Annex J of this document.

Project Management:
In order to support implementation of CBIT IIA and CBIT IIB as a unified initiative, the Project Management Unit (PMU) and Executive Management Group (EMG) will be the same for both projects.

DTU/UDP will recruit the Project Coordinator (PC), located in Copenhagen, to be funded from project resources. The PC will coordinate a team of technical experts and administrative staff from DTU/UDP. Accordingly, the PC will be responsible for the provision of support to project stakeholders to achieve the outcomes of the project. The PC will report to DTU/UDP, while also continuously updating and coordinating with the Project Liaison appointed by UNEP to achieve project outcomes.

UNEP will appoint the Project Liaison (PL), co-located in Copenhagen with DTU/UDP, funded from UNEP?s resources other than the project funds. The PL?s tasks are among others to provide political guidance and support linkages with other transparency initiatives.

The Project Coordinator will support an executive management group (EMG), which will be composed of representatives from UNEP (the Project Liaison and the Task Manager) and DTU/UDP (the Head of Transparency and Accountability). The EMG will operate through half-yearly meetings. Its main functions will be to take management decisions (including approving budget and workplan revisions). It will also provide high-level guidance on and ensure full coordination between UNEP and DTU/UDP of the project and other relevant initiatives.

In addition, the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for day to day management of the project and ensure timely delivery of quality outputs, will prepare budgets and workplans revisions for review and will track project progress and prepare reports.

Project Oversight: The project will utilize a project steering committee (PSC), which will be composed of representatives from the following organizations: UNEP (the Project Liaison and the Task Manager), DTU/UDP (Head of Transparency and Accountability), the UNFCCC and the GEF Secretariat. In addition, on a rotating basis, one developed country, two developing countries and one representative from GEF Implementing Agencies working on transparency will be invited. The committee will be responsible for reviewing project progress, annual work plans and budget and providing strategic guidance for successful project implementation. The PSC will meet annually, unless one of the committee members calls for ad hoc interim meeting. Developing country representation on the PSC will provide a voice for project beneficiaries. The PSC meetings will be scheduled concurrently with other workshops or side events organized by the project to minimize travel costs and will follow all UNEP guidance relating to staff travel during the COVID-19 global pandemic, which may necessitate remote meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordination: Project?level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken following UNEP requirements for project monitoring and evaluation. Additional mandatory, GEF?specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with GEF M&E policy and other relevant GEF policies. Detailed M&E arrangements and a budget for those activities are provided in Annex I of this document.

Coordination with other GEF-funded projects that focus on transparency: The proposed project is designed to prevent a gap in support to developing countries on transparency issues. Project activities are therefore scheduled to transition from the CBIT GCP and GSP projects into a unified Phase II support program. Figure 5 in Section II.1.a provides an overview of the timing of this process. The proposed project will also liaise with planned and future CBIT global projects to maintain an overview of the work being done in the sector. Furthermore, the project will maintain contact with country-level projects under the CBIT funding window and country-level climate change enabling activities due to their focus on GHG inventories and reporting.

The Part II, section 1a.2 of the CEO Endorsement Request provides additional information on ongoing and/or planned initiatives related to transparency, i.e. ICAT, PATPA, PCCB, PASTI, WRI and partners. Coordination with other stakeholders is outlined in Table 3. The MRV Group of Friends has played an important role in avoiding duplication of effort, and work within that group will continue to operate under the IIB project. The CBIT IIA project will continue previous GEF support for meetings and will allow for regular coordination with donors and other transparency initiatives.[1]

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[1] Project-supported meetings under both the GSP and the CBIT GCP have included participants from a broad array of stakeholders, including other transparency initiatives such as ICAT and participants from projects supported by FAO, GIZ, and the governments of Belgium, Singapore, and Brazil, among others.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

This CBIT Phase IIB project proposal is consistent with the Paris Agreement, and with and national priorities, such as national communications, BURs, and NDCs, as it will support countries in obtaining the necessary capacities and tools to track progress in climate change mitigation and adaptation and, more specifically, Nationally Determined Contributions. Support for capacity strengthening related to monitoring and tracking progress on key climate-related indicators will also support data collection and analysis that can in turn inform other policy exercises, such as TNAs, NAPs, NCSAs, and others.

In order to ensure that the project is aligned with UNFCCC and IPCC guidance throughout its implementation, representatives of the implementing and executing agencies will follow developments at UNFCCC COPs, and selected representatives will attend COPs. New guidance will be addressed at project EMG meetings in order to ensure alignment of any support being provided with current, applicable guidance related to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

This project will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13 and 17. The platform will serve as an underlying mechanism for tracking progress towards combatting Climate Change (SDG 13) it will contribute to the specific target 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning and indicator 13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions. At the same time provide a forum encouraging partnerships among relevant actors (SDG 17), especially to the specific target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources and indicator 17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income.

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.

As in the ongoing CBIT project, knowledge management is at the core of proposed Phase IIB project. All components involve capturing knowledge and disseminating it in such a way as to reach the largest global audience. As the CBIT Global Platform project terminal evaluation found, ?A challenge for CBIT GCP was to speak to the different interests of a large and diverse group of CBIT countries, which are at different stages of CBIT implementation. Some countries were mainly interested in learning from other countries in their own regions, whereas other were more interested in learning from other region.?[1]

The project will also capture and share knowledge from country-level projects and from other transparency-related initiatives, and it will develop a long-term data management plan in order to ensure

that information and knowledge gathered during the project will continue to be accessible to those who need it. Component 2 of the project (Ongoing Development and Delivery of Knowledge in Support of Article 13) will focus on generating knowledge products and maintaining a web platform to allow knowledge sharing and dissemination. The South-South peer networks in Component 1 are also highly consistent with the recommendation of the 2015 GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) interim report on knowledge management in the GEF to provide enhanced support for South-South exchanges and communities of practice.[2]

The knowledge management strategy for the project is presented in Table 5B below.

Table 5B: Knowledge Management Strategy

Strategy	Responsibility	Timeframe	Methods	Outputs
Enable regional and sub-regional knowledge sharing	Regional network coordinators	Ongoing	Quarterly regional workshops ●Educational ●Experience sharing Interactive discussion forum on streamlined platform	Key learning captured and shared on the regional and sub-regional sections of the streamlined platform Best practice initiated in countries/regions shared and published Participation in forums, all queries addressed and where applicable, converted into How to guides
Increase process understanding and efficiency	Regional coordinators DTU/UDP	Ongoing	Requirements and feedback gathering Needs analysis	?How To?? guides (Wikis) Templates
Information on CBIT portal easy to find and understand	DTU/UDP	Ongoing	Intuitive user interface	Introductory guide in form of multiple short videos explaining the key features for ?onboarding? new network members Wish list (what is current missing and desirable) with option to upvote
CBIT portal awareness	Project Coordinator DTU/UDP Experts Other donors (PATPA)	Ongoing	Promote the streamlined platform in global and regional workshops and events	Annual survey measuring awareness, usefulness and satisfaction showing progress over time

Capture and share relevant knowledge	All	Ongoing	Content publishing process and quality control	Regional and global workshops presentations
				Project information published and kept up-to-date
Create networking opportunities	Project Coordinator Beneficiaries Other donors	Annual	Annual workshop with multiple topical presentations and group discussions	Materials published with abstracts and contacts for queries
Motivate contribution	DTU/UDP	Quarterly	Celebrate learning through shared success stories (linked to streamlined platform content) in workshops Personal recognition to key contributors from top level officials	Recognition section on the streamlined platform Homepage highlights contributors on quarterly basis

This knowledge management mechanism will be monitored and adjusted under Output 3.2, and it will support information gathering and planning for the MRV/Transparency networks? activities and training plans under Output 1.2 and 1.3, respectively.

In order to be aligned with a right-based approach, special attention has been given in Phase IIB to knowledge accessibility in all project components. Steps to increase accessibility will include distributing information from regional and sub-regional workshops and networks to other regions, identifying low-bandwidth and off-line approaches to knowledge sharing for the many parts of the world that face connectivity issues, and translating relevant materials guidance into multiple languages so that more experts can use them easily, among others. Knowledge generated under the project will be distributed free of charge.

Several elements of the project design of Phase IIB have been informed by the current CBIT GCP and GSP activities through information gathered during annual project monitoring of both projects and from the Mid-Term review (MTR) of the GSP. For example, the MTR recommended that the project ?prioritize regional networks as a backbone for delivery of GSP?s regional and national level activities and more strategic, longer term engagement.?[3] It also prioritized the establishment of a regional network in Asia based on feedback from the MTR and has included adaptation and NDC tracking and policy notes.[4]

In addition, potential topics for knowledge generation and dissemination have been identified based on country self-assessment reports, feedback from developing country Parties at technical workshops and regional meetings, findings from the CBIT GCP terminal evaluation, and emerging issues for which little or no guidance/training materials are available. Topics that are currently being considered for Phase IIB include the following:

•BTRs;
•the 2006 IPCC inventories guidelines and the 2019 modification;
•MRV elements in Art. 6, and MRV systems, including data collection techniques, storage options and analysis;
•tracking NDCs;
•long-term scenarios;
•using MRV systems to inform updated NDCs;
•governance systems and institutional arrangements;
•tracking donor support received;
•adaptation communications (stand-alone or as part of BTRs);
•access to information and other linkages between transparency and a right-based approach to development;

- use of the common reporting tables and the common tabular format developed at COP 26.
- use of the new outlines of the BTR and the NID developed at COP 26, and
- other policy and technical notes on environmental integrity; accountability and trust.

Strategic communications under the project will be linked closely with the knowledge management strategy, as knowledge produced under the project will form the content of project communications. Key elements are as follows:

- *Communication objectives:* Communications will focus on 1) Ensuring visibility for project activities and recognition of project results; and 2) Raising awareness regarding transparency issues in developing country Parties; and 3) Promoting the message that robust NDCs can be achieved and that transparency activities are crucial to measuring climate action.
- *Communication management:* The Project Coordinator will oversee strategic communications in close coordination with the Project Steering Committee.
- *Target Audiences:* Primary target audiences will include CBIT project teams, transparency experts in CBIT project countries, and donors and other international transparency stakeholders. Secondary target audiences will include national governments, academia, and civil society in participating countries.
- *Key Channels*: Channels will include the project website; social media channels used by UNEP, DTU/UDP and the GEF; events at global and regional meetings on climate action (in-person and/or virtual); and the regional and sub-regional networks.

As a whole, the knowledge management strategy of the project will contribute to the overall impact of the project by providing information and knowledge to participating countries that will enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements. This in turn will support the achievement of the desired impact of increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees and to take meaningful action to adapt to climate change.

Finally, the knowledge management strategy is designed to foster the continuation of project benefits beyond the operational conclusion of the project. By producing training modules and other knowledge products and distributing them to Non Annex I countries, the project will provide sustained support for capacity strengthening. Countries will be able to use the information and materials generated by the project and available on the project website even after CBIT Phase IIB is completed. The project management unit will develop a plan during the final year of project implementation in order to ensure continued access to project publications and other materials beyond the end of the project.

Table 6: Elements of Knowledge Capture for CBIT Phase IIB

	Key Deliverables	Timeline	Budget
Project Component 1: Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements	? Analytical reports of support provided ? Expert reviews of national reports ? Lessons learned document on common reporting challenges ? Knowledge products (factsheets, webinars, guidance documents) based on findings from the regional and sub-regional networks ? Workshop reports from training workshops at the regional and sub-regional level	*Reports, reviews, and summaries:* Ad hoc from Y1 Lessons learned document: Y2	Low-cost/no-cost measures that fall within the scope of work of the Transparency Experts (# 110103) and the staff tasked with maintaining and updating content on the global platform (# 110111) and communication (110107). The strategy activities will

Project Component 2: Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13	? Annual KM plan for content on the project website ? Webinars, audio briefings, articles ? Information from individual country CBIT projects and the self-assessment tool ? Facilitated peer learning / knowledge sharing through the project website ? At least two knowledge products (website content, webinar, etc.) from emerging good practice in participating CBIT countries. ? Knowledge inventory of guidance documents and training modules with a view to updating and/or replacing them ? Handbook for countries on sustainable data management ? Training modules ? Fact sheets on emerging issues related to the the Paris Rulebook and MPG decisions emerging from COP 26 and subsequent COPs, including details of BTRs and reporting formats	*Website Maintenance:* Ongoing *Global KM Plan:* Annual *Country self-assessment*: Annual *Knowledge Inventory:* Annual *Fact sheets:* Ad hoc *Knowledge products:* Ongoing	also be supported by the regional / sub-regional network coordinators (1110123). All Terms of Reference are provided in Annex G of the CEO Endorsement Request.
Project Component 3: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	? Inception report, midterm review, terminal evaluation ? Reports on training participation by gender and gender mainstreaming in other activities, including website usage ? Lessons learned note(s) ? Annual PIRs ? Final Report, summary of achievements	*M&E reports:* see Section 9 and Annex I *LLN:* Periodic *PIRs: Annual* *Report* *Final Report:*Y5	200,000 USD including budget for M&E activities

[1] UNEP Evaluation Office (2021): 9.

[2] GEF/STAP/C.48/Inf.03/Rev.01 (2015): 7.

[3] Prasada Rao (2018): Mid-Term Review. Recommendation R5.4.

[4] Ibid.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP?s Evaluation Policy, GEF Full-Sized Projects and any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point. All GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review?s performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project?s operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is

finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report?

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Meeting and Inception Report: A project inception meeting will be held immediately as the project is approved. The Project Coordinator will prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. The inception report will be cleared by the EMG and will be approved by the Project Steering Commitee.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR): The Project Coordinator and the EMG will provide objective input to the annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) for each year of project implementation. The Project Coordinator will ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the PIR. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Steering Committee.

Lessons learned and knowledge generation: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy?based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to the project. The project will identify, analyse and share lessons learned that might be beneficial to the design and implementation of similar projects and disseminate these lessons widely. There will be continuous information exchange between this project and other projects of similar focus in the same country, region and globally.

GEF Focal Area Core Indicators: The following GEF core indicator will be used to monitor global environmental benefit results: Core Indicator 11 (number of beneficiaries, and of that, number of women).

This indicator will be monitored by the Project Coordinator/Team and shared with the consultant(s) conducting the mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation before the required evaluation missions take place. The core indicator numbers will be submitted to the GEF along with the completed Terminal Evaluation report.

A summary of M&E activities envisaged is provided in Annex I. When relevant, M&E activities will assess gender mainstreaming and women?s meaningful participation in project activities. The GEF contribution for M&E activities is USD 200,000 as per table below.

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget[1] (US$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co? financing	
Inception meeting	Project Coordinator	8,000	None	Within two months of legal agreement signature
Inception report	Project Coordinator	None	None	Within one month of the Inception workshop
Measurement of project progress and performance indicators	Project Coordinator	None	None	Annually
Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Project Coordinator	None	None	Project inception
Mid-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Project Coordinator	None	None	Mid-point
End-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators	Project Coordinator	None	None	End point
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Coordinator	None	None	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	Project Coordinator	None	None	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Coordinator	None	None	Annually
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Project Coordinator	None	None	Annually (to be submitted by end of July, covering July-June period)
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP with financial and technical inputs from DTU/UDP	40,000	None	July 2024
Terminal Review/Evaluation (whether a project requires a management-led review or an independent evaluation is determined annually by UNEP?s Evaluation Office)	UNEP and/or UNEP Evaluation Office	50,000	None	At least three months before operational closure.
Final Report or Project Operational Completion Report	Executive Management Group	None	None	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report (including supporting evidence for in-kind co-finance)	Project Coordinator	None	None	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Lessons learned and knowledge generation	Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Officer	102,000	None	On-going
TOTAL INDICATIVE COST Excluding project team staff time, and UNEP staff and travel expenses		*USD 200,000*		

[1]Excluding project team staff time and travel expenses.

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)?

This project will ultimately contribute to enhanced ambitions in reducing GHG emissions. Improved coordination will generate synergies and avoid duplication across support initiatives and efforts, freeing resources for additional efforts in the global aim to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. Similarly, the enhanced availability of knowledge through a centralized coordination platform will help countries increase their transparency capacity and, as a result, their capacity to report progress on their NDCs and long-term policy planning, providing for increased ambition.

In the area of climate change, the project will increase climate-related knowledge through improved GHG inventories and transparency frameworks and will disseminate good practice to developing countries, which will in turn allow them to undertake more robust mitigation activities. Furthermore, capacity improvements related to climate change adaptation and guidance on including robust adaptation goals in NDCs will generate adaptation-related benefits, but they may also generate benefits in other global environmental areas, such as biodiversity and land degradation through improved REDD+ capacity.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The Social and Environmental Safeguards template is attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
UNEP ESERN	CEO Endorsement ESS	

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).

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Project Objective: To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non Annex I countries[1] under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees.	Indicator 1: Number of project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)[2]	150 people	At least 500 people will utilize support for transparency and reporting from project outputs and activities, *and at least 250 of them will be women.*	At least 1000 people will utilize support for transparency and reporting from project outputs and activities, *and at least 500 of them will be women.*	Reporting by Project Countries and project documentation that includes registration lists for webinars, trainings, and other in-person or on-line gatherings or discussion	Countries that utilize support from the CBIT Phase IIB project will apply improvements in capacity to transparency requirements.

Project Component 1	Capacity strengthening for developing countries through customized support and South-South sub-regional peer networks and learning to support current and future reporting requirements					
Project Outcome 1 Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities	Indicator 2: Number of national experts who have applied project training and/or other guidance in the thematic & cross cutting areas defined by the UNFCCC and COP reporting guidelines to the preparation of NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs.	0	By the start of the mid-term review, at least 250	By the end of the project, at least 500.	Survey of national experts conducted by the project team before Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation, (disaggregated by gender and network).	National experts utilizing the services provided by the project will be in a position to apply what the knowledge and skills that they receive.
	Indicator 3: Percentage of participating experts rating training, technical backstopping, reviews, supporting tools and guidance notes ?high? or ?very high? (4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) in helping them to prepare high-quality NCs, BURs, and/or BTRs.	0	By the start of the mid-term review, at least 60%.	By the end of the project, at least 70%.	Survey of project beneficiaries in conjunction with the terminal evaluation or satisfaction survey after each support received.	Improved transparency will allow countries to undertake more robust communications on nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

	Indicator 4: Percentage of network members that consider that their participation in the MRV/Transparency Network under CBIT II B contributed to improve/strengthen their MRV/transparency activities	0	50%	70%		Survey of project network members at Mid-Term and before the Terminal Evaluation (disaggregated by sex and network).	Regional activities will allow the project to provide more tailored support.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	1.1 Assistance provided to countries with <mark>development and</mark> reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request 1.2 Regional and sub-regional MRV/Transparency networks maintained and strengthened 1.3 Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified 1.4 South-South support and technical backstopping to support the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in meeting existing MRV requirements and building capacity to meet future transparency requirements						
Project Component 2	**Ongoing development and delivery of knowledge in support of Article 13**						

Project Outcome 2 Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	Indicator 5: Knowledge demand / uptake: i.e., number of practitioners using the project website services and knowledge products every quarter (on average)[3]	0 (platform has not yet been merged)[4]	No Mid-Term target, since this component will start when Phase II A will end.	At least 80 practitioners.	Website analytics. Number of practitioners estimated through unique visits disaggregated by beneficiary countries and rest of countries. Country and practitioner feedback collected in the course of the Terminal Evaluation by the evaluator(s).	The project website will simplify requests and searches for users and increase user interest.
	Indicator 6: Percentage of users surveyed who consider the platform (website, its features, and knowledge products) very useful or useful for their purposes	0 (platform has not yet been merged)[5]	No Mid-Term target, since this component will start when Phase II A will end.	70%	Pop-up survey conducted on the project website.	Partners will have sufficient time and interest to utilize the information they access.
	Indicator 7: Number of developing countries sharing good practice in gender mainstreaming on the streamlined web platform	0 (platform has not yet been merged)[6]	No Mid-Term target, since this component will start when Phase II A will end.	25 countries	Review of project documentation and platform content in the course of the Terminal Evaluation by the evaluator(s).	Developing country experts will have time and interest in sharing gender mainstreaming experiences.

Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	2.1 Integrated Platform content and features managed and updated regularly 2.2 Paris Rulebook knowledge products including training modules updated, developed, and customized					
Project **Component 3**	**Monitoring and Evaluation**					
Project Outcome 3 Project management and country approaches to reporting are informed by M&E	Indicator 8: Number of key recommendations from the MTR that are incorporated into project management and activities.	Not applicable	Not applicable	All key recommendations from the MTR are addressed by the end of the project.	Terminal evaluation; review of management response, PIRs, structured interviews.	The MTR recommendations will prioritize areas for improvement in project implementation that can be addressed by project management and stakeholders.
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	3.1 Project monitored to support results-based management 3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated					
Additional Indicators	In addition to outcome-level indicators, the following indicators are included under the project Gender Action Plan: •Number of countries integrating gender considerations into climate reports and transparency frameworks; •Number and description of capacity building events (seminars, workshops, webinars, consultations) aimed at mainstreaming gender into climate reports and transparency frameworks; •Share of women, men and youth beneficiaries of activities/events; •Share of women, men and youth speakers at the events (webinars, podcasts, etc.); •Number of newly established connections and partnerships among women and youth organizations at regional, sub-regional and global levels;					

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[1] Beneficiary countries under this project are referred to throughout the document as Non-Annex I countries (referring to their status under the UNFCCC) and developing country parties (referring to their status under the Paris Agreement).

[2] Mandatory indicator under GEF-7 streamlined indicators.

[3] Indicators 5, 6, and 7 are aligned with the CBIT IIA project (GEF ID 10128) in order to maintain continuity in M&E.

[4] The baseline for this indicator will be checked and modified as needed at the inception of activities under Output 2.1.

[5] The baseline for this indicator will be checked and modified as needed at the inception of activities under Output 2.1.

[6] The baseline for this indicator will be checked and modified as needed at the inception of activities under Output 2.1.

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).

Institution	Comment	Response
Germany **(GEF Council Member)**	Germany asks to revise the risk section of the document. Risks such as the lack of accessibility of participants are not assessed in sufficient detail and lack a sufficient reasoning as to why they are rated so low. Also, mitigating options should be identified.	The risk section of the CEO ER has been expanded, and it now includes risk related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, climate risk, and social risks related to access to information. The risk section now includes a justification for ratings and specific mitigating measures. Estimated probability and impact of various risks has been informed by the terminal evaluation of the CBIT Global Coordinating Platform project (CBIT Phase I) and consultations conducted during the PPG period.

	The prospective results and implementation phases of the project are portrayed up to 2025. Germany would also recommend including a strategy on potential follow-on financing and a section on the durability/ long-term impacts of the project.	Article 12, Paragraph 7 of the UNFCC states that the UNFCCC COP ?shall arrange for the provision to developing country Parties of technical and financial support, on request, in compiling and communicating information?.? The role of this project is to strengthen individual and organizational capacity at the country and regional levels that can be utilized over the long term.
			Activity 3.2.4, ?Develop a long-term sustainability strategy for KM/capacity creation,? will directly address the sustainability of project knowledge and capacity and will be implemented by Year 3 of the project. Broader support for project sustainability and impacts is now discussed in the sustainability section of this document (II.1a.7).
	The project is embedded in the context of the Paris Agreement. Germany would therefore ask to revise the overall objective of the project to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees and if possible 1.5 degrees.	The objective has been re-worded to include this stated temperature goal, and the change is noted in Section IIA.
	As the project constitutes phase II b of the CBIT, it is embedded in the previous phases while focusing on addressing new issues under Art. 13 and build on already successfully implemented foundations. Germany asks to elaborate the interlinkages with two other projects with similar objectives in more detail and to devise an aligned knowledge management strategy to share implementation results/ best practices.	The description of coordination with other initiatives has been expanded, and the UNFCCC Initiative of Universal Participation in the ETF, which was announced in November 2020, is now included. The project will coordinate closely with PATPA, ICAT, FAO, UNFCCC etc. and *Table 3 Key stakehoders (under section Part II.2)* lists areas where the project will coordinate with other projects.
			A knowledge management strategy that is aligned with the work carried out under other projects with similar objectives is discussed in Section II.8 and outlined in *Table 5B Knowledge management*. The Project Team will coordinate knowledge management with PATPA through discussions held during the inception phase.

Institution	Comment	Response

Norway/Denmark **(GEF Council Member)**	We note that the in the course of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the GSP, ?Stakeholders interviewed uniformly expressed an appreciation of GSP support in terms of relevance, quality, and utility?. However, has there been expressed a clear demand for this project from potential partner countries? In what form? The PFD should state this more clearly.	The GSP had carried out a survey in 2020 to assess its support, identify the remaining challenges for countries and the further needs for support. As capacity and awareness of countries improve, their needs become more sophisticated and more technical. The survey has identified many areas where further support is needed ?Support for GHG inventory systems and training (44 countries) ?Training on MRV and institutional arrangements (41 countries) ?Vulnerability and adaptation assessments (28 countries) ?Support for mitigation analysis and reporting (27 countries) ?BTR requirements (16 countries) ?Tracking of support received (9 countries) ?Other support areas (42 countries) In addition, the transition from the BUR to the BTR is one of the main areas of support needed in the coming few years. Therefore, demand for support for what the GSP offers and its continuation was very strong. Furthermore, the CBIT GCP carried a needs assessment report that highlighted the "existing capacities and barriers faced by Parties and key stakeholders alike in the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework.? (reference: Output 3.1.3 of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (CBIT Phase I)). This assessment also underlines the need for this project. References to both reports and the key elements highlighted above are included in the *Project context Section Part II 1.A.1.*

	What groundwork is needed from the individual country?s side and from UNEP/UNDP to identify gaps and needs in institutional capacity? Who will select institutions to take part in the program? This should be specified in the PFD.	As mentioned in the previous response, the GSP 2020 survey assessed the remaining gaps in countries for the implementation of the MRV/Transparency arrangements and CBIT GCP needs assessment conducted highlighted the areas where further support is needed. As included in the *Project context Section Part II.1.A.1*.

In addition, the project will undertake specific needs assessment in each of its 9 networks at the start of its implementation. These assessments will allow the project to identify more refined needs and be better equipped to respond to them. Moreover, the needs and gaps will be updated in regards to the latest COP guidance as well as any recent progress in the countries. This is described in Output 1.2 *Proposed alternative scenario section Part II 1.A.3*.

UNDP has stepped out as the co-implementing agency for the project. However, collaboration with UNDP will continue through activities with other funding sources, and potentially the work in the MENA region.

UNEP will collaborate with the UNEP DTU Partnership (UDP) to execute the project. UNEP DTU Partnership is very active in the transparency field and has collaborated with UNEP in a variety of projects. UDP and the GSP provided support to 32 countries compiling their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) from 2015 to 2017. Collaboration was further enhanced with the implementation of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (GCP) (GEF ID 9675), jointly implemented by UNEP and UNDP. UDP will also provide co-financing for the project through its engagement in other transparency initiatives such as ICAT.

Other institutions at the national and international level that are active in the Transparency area and will cooperate |

| | The baseline (Institutional capacity, information gathering, synthesis and dissemination of GHG related sectors and data etc.) is likely to be different from country to country. How will this be addressed by the project? | Countries have different capacities and therefore require tailored support. For this reason, the project continues with the network concept developed under the GSP in order to group countries from similar regions and with similar circumstances in order to better target the support. Network coordinators will be recruited to manage the newtorks and will be in direct contact with countries listening to their needs and adapting the support required at the country level. This is described in Output 1.2 and 1.3 description under *Proposed alternative scenario section Part II 1.A.3*. |

| How will the project avoid overlap and ensure coordination with other ongoing or planned projects (non-UNEP/UNDP) aimed to do some of the same as this (e.g. FAO-FRA and Global Forest Watch)? | The current project CBIT Phase II B builds upon on work that will be initiated CBIT Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128).

More specifically, Component 2 of the Phase IIA has as one of its objectives increasing donor coordination, which will allow the project to leverage other resources and reach the maximum number of stakeholders possible while avoiding duplication of efforts.

More specifically, Phase IIA output 2.3: Coordination among support providers facilitated, provides for maintaining and expanding the communication among support providers that has been developed through the GSP and CBIT Global Coordination Platform. This coordination will include coordination meetings and dialogues among donors and support providers, as well as information sharing through the merged website.

In addition, other coordination efforts will take place through engagement of the project team in the various transparency groups such as the MRV Group of Friend, the Universal Participation in the ETF initiative, the ETF group, etc. Furthermore, organization of outreach events and participation in COPs and regional events will help increase communication and coordination with Partners and support providers.

In parallel to the above, please refer to the *Baseline scenario section Part II 1.A 2)* that includes collaboration with various partners including the FAO FRA and the Global Forest Watch. |

		On outcome 1 in the project strategy, awareness in national institutions is identified as one activity to support south-south cooperation. However, this may only be a first step on the way to establish meaningful exchange of experiences between countries. What about other network-building and support activities?	The main vechicle to promote south-south collaboration will be done through the established networks. The project will organize regional and global trainings where countries can share their experiences and best practices as well as their challenges for which there might be solutions proposed by other countries that faced similar issues. The project plans, for example, explore collaborating with IGES who is implementing a programme called the Mutual Learning Programme where two countries with similar circumstances are paired and work and collaborate together to solve the issues in some of the reporting areas or institutional arrangements that they have identified.
		What support activities will follow the dissemination of CD-ROMS, USB sticks etc. to ensure that the information and data therein is sufficiently adapted to national circumstances?	Due to the fact that CDs and USB sticks are not the main vehicle to share information any more, the project plans to provide access to content from the platform to users in low-connectivity environments through developing a lower bandwidth version of the project website, designing interactive features that can be completed off-line, using audio clips in lieu of video, and maintaining the newsletter. All materials will also be available to be downloaded in PDF format. This is mentioned under Output 2.1 description in the *Proposed alternative scenario section Part II.1.A.3*.

The concept of the networks will allow connecting directly with countries and providing them with personalysed information and guidance material depending on their needs and national circumstances. Translations of important documents will be undertaken to the extent possible and network coordinators will be knowledgeable in the networks language which would allow ease of communication and tailored to the national circumstances. |

	How will the website be updated, who will do it, and how will this be sustained/maintained after the project is over?	The website will be updated by UNEP DTU Partnership as detailed in output 2.1 description in the *A Proposed alternative scenario section Part II.1.A.3*.
		It is the expectation that another phase of the project will follow this one due to the importance of catering for countries needs in the initial reporting cycles of the BTR and to support the continuous improvement as called for in the ETF.
		Therefore, it is the expectation that the next phase will also support maintaining the CBIT Platform. However, in the event where this might not happen, UNEP will explore other avenues and find other means, including partners? support, to maintain or co-host the website.

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: $50,000			
	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*Budgeted Amount*	*Amount Spent Todate*	*Amount Committed*
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	18,000	14,600	0
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	22,000	21,272	10,328

Component C: Validation Workshop and Report	10,000	3,800	0
Total	**50,000**	**39,672**	**10,328**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

The proposed project is a global project, and it will involve the participation of developing countries around the globe.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

GEF budget category & detailed description	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	PMC	Subtotal	Total	Responsib
02. Goods	**98,000**				**98,000**	**98,000**	
IT equipment	8,000				8,000	8,000	UDP/DTU
Joint line for audio-visual and print production costs for communications, publication and graphic material under output 1.2 and 1.3	90,000				90,000	90,000	UDP/DTU
07. Contractual services company				**22,500**	**22,500**	**22,500**	
Independent financial audits				22,500	22,500	22,500	UDP/DTU
08. Contractual services (individuals)	**412,381**	**20,000**			**432,381**	**432,381**	
International companies to support trainings and capacity building activities under Output 1.3	76,000				76,000	76,000	UDP/DTU
Graphic designer		20,000			20,000	20,000	UDP/DTU
MENA - Subcontracts	336,381				336,381	336,381	UDP/DTU
09. International Consultants	**1,932,500**		**90,000**		**2,022,500**	**2,022,500**	
International consultants for BTR funding proposal preparation	30,000				30,000	30,000	UDP/DTU
International consultants for Reviews	57,500				57,500	57,500	UDP/DTU
International Consultants to develop training materials	100,000				100,000	100,000	UDP/DTU
MENA - International consultants	510,000				510,000	510,000	UDP/DTU
Mid-Term Evaluation / Mid-Term Review			40,000		40,000	40,000	UNEP
Network Coordinators	1,235,000				1,235,000	1,235,000	UDP/DTU
Terminal Evaluation			50,000		50,000	50,000	UNEP
11. Salary and benefits/Staff Costs	**2,119,193**	**452,000**	**102,000**	**290,240**	**2,963,433**	**2,963,433**	
Project administration and financial support				132,620	132,620	132,620	UDP/DTU
Project Assistant	157,000			100,000	257,000	257,000	UDP/DTU
Project Coordinator	765,823			57,620	823,443	823,443	UDP/DTU
UDP communication expert	8,620	112,000			120,620	120,620	UDP/DTU
UDP M&E officer supporting results tracking and knowledge sharing			102,000		102,000	102,000	UDP/DTU
UDP Staff for logistics for webinars	62,500				62,500	62,500	UDP/DTU
UDP staff for maintaining and updating content on the GSP/CBIT platform		230,000			230,000	230,000	UDP/DTU
UDP staff for programming support to merge GSP/CBIT platform		70,000			70,000	70,000	UDP/DTU
UDP Staff to develop training materials	300,000				300,000	300,000	UDP/DTU
UDP Transparency experts	523,250				523,250	523,250	UDP/DTU
UDP Transparency experts for BTR funding proposal preparation	70,000				70,000	70,000	UDP/DTU
UDP Transparency Experts for Reviews	77,000				77,000	77,000	UDP/DTU
UDP Transparency Experts to develop knowledge products	155,000	40,000			195,000	195,000	UDP/DTU
12. Training, Workshops, Meetings	**731,000**		**8,000**		**739,000**	**739,000**	
Costs for the inception workshop			8,000		8,000	8,000	UDP/DTU
MENA - Resources MENA regional/network tranings and workshops under 1.4	66,000				66,000	66,000	UDP/DTU
Resources for regional/network meetings and workshop (Output 1.2)	345,000				345,000	345,000	UDP/DTU
Resources for regional/network meetings and workshops (Output 1.3)	320,000				320,000	320,000	UDP/DTU
13. Travel	**274,250**	**11,483**			**285,733**	**285,733**	
MENA - Travel for project team	40,000				40,000	40,000	UDP/DTU
Travel for on-call support, trainings, regional network meetings, south-south, peer mentoring/learning. Travel for project staff and consultants	234,250				234,250	234,250	UDP/DTU
Travel for workshops and international meetings (UNEP Project Liaison)		11,483			11,483	11,483	UDP/DTU
15. Other operating costs		**4,000**			**4,000**	**4,000**	
Domain host		4,000			4,000	4,000	UDP/DTU
Grand Total	**5,567,324**	**487,483**	**200,000**	**312,740**	**6,567,547**	**6,567,547**	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

NA

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

NA

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).

NA