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
☐NGI

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)
UNDP, UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
UNEP DTU Partnership

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area

Climate Change

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Climate Change Mitigation, Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Mainstreaming adaptation, Enabling Activities, Paris Agreement, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, South-South, Twinning, North-South, Field Visit, Peer-to-Peer, Exhibit, Conference, Training, Master Classes, Course, Professional Development, Workshop, Seminar

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration
60 In Months

Agency Fee($)
623,917

Submission Date
10/29/2019

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
CCM-3-8	GET	567,547	400,000
CCM-EA	GET	6,000,000	500,000
Total Project Cost ($)		**6,567,547**	**900,000**

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To provide streamlined need-based capacity building and technical support at the country, regional, and global level, to enable Non Annex I countries* under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreements to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased action within country NDCs. *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).

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
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 reviews of climate change reporting and documentation upon request 1.2 Regional and sub-regional MRV systems maintained and strengthened 1.3 Training provided to address gaps and needs as they are identified	GET	5,526,550	400,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
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	450,000	400,000
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	278,257	
			Sub Total ($)		**6,254,807**	**800,000**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET	312,740	100,000
	Sub Total($)	**312,740**	**100,000**
	Total Project Cost($)	**6,567,547**	**900,000**

C. Indicative 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($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000
Others	UNEP DTU Partnership	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000
			Total Project Cost($)	**900,000**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

n/a

D. Indicative 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($)
UNDP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	283,774	26,959	310,733
UNEP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CBIT Set-Aside	283,773	26,958	310,731
UNDP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	3,500,000	332,500	3,832,500
UNEP	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC Set-Aside	2,500,000	237,500	2,737,500
				Total GEF Resources($)	**6,567,547**	**623,917**	**7,191,464**

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

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

Core Indicators

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	250			
Male	250			
Total	500	0	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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. From 2020 onward, all countries, both developed and developing, will be 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.
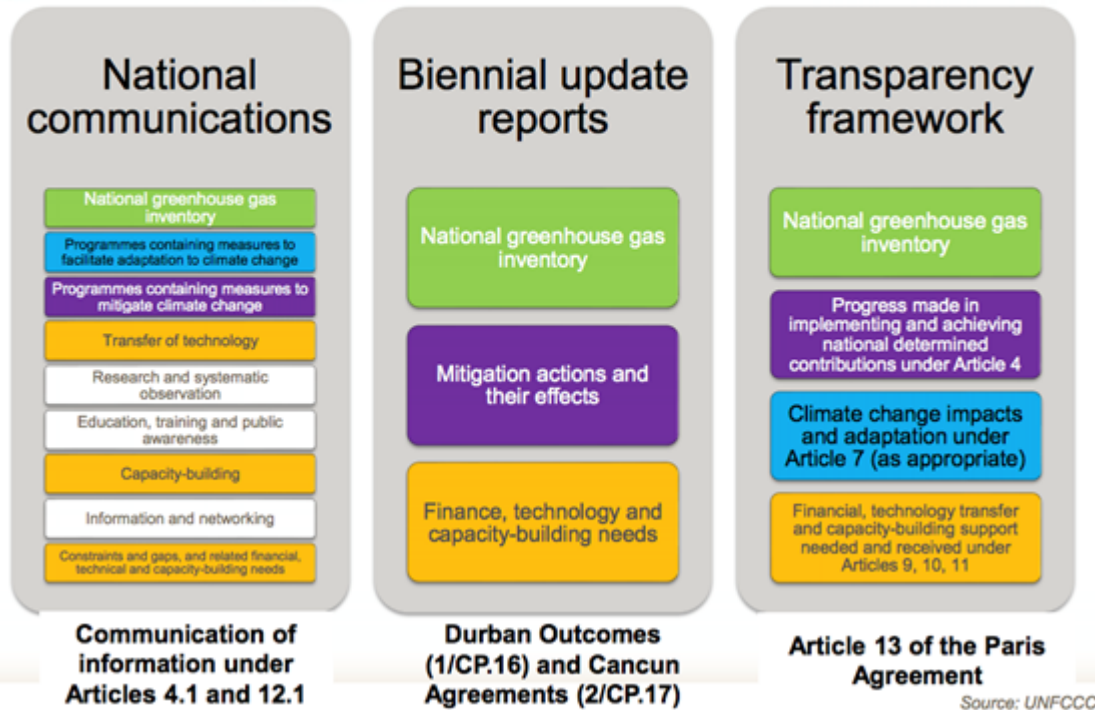
Figure 1: Overview of Climate Change Reporting Requirements

Decisions made at the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) in Katowice in December 2018 on the modalities, procedures, and guidelines on reporting under Article 13 have generated specific needs for developing country parties. The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), which shall be submitted by all parties to the Paris Agreement by December 31, 2024, has a series of elements that many developing country Parties will need to introduce or strengthen. The following list identifies the elements of the BTR and areas where needs and gaps have been identified in developing country Parties.

- National Inventory Reports (NIRs)

  o Use of IPCC 2006 Good Practice Guidance

  o 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

  o Reporting on consistent annual time series from 1990

  o Latest reporting year no more than two years prior to submission of the report

  o 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)

  o Structured summary of progress towards NDCs

  o Reporting on indicators

  o Reporting on accounting and methodologies (yet been defined by the COP)

  o Information on mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans

  o Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals that extend at least 15 years beyond the next year ending in a zero or five

  o Projections of greenhouse gas emissions that include a "with measures" scenario and may also include "with additional measures" and "without measures" scenarios.

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:
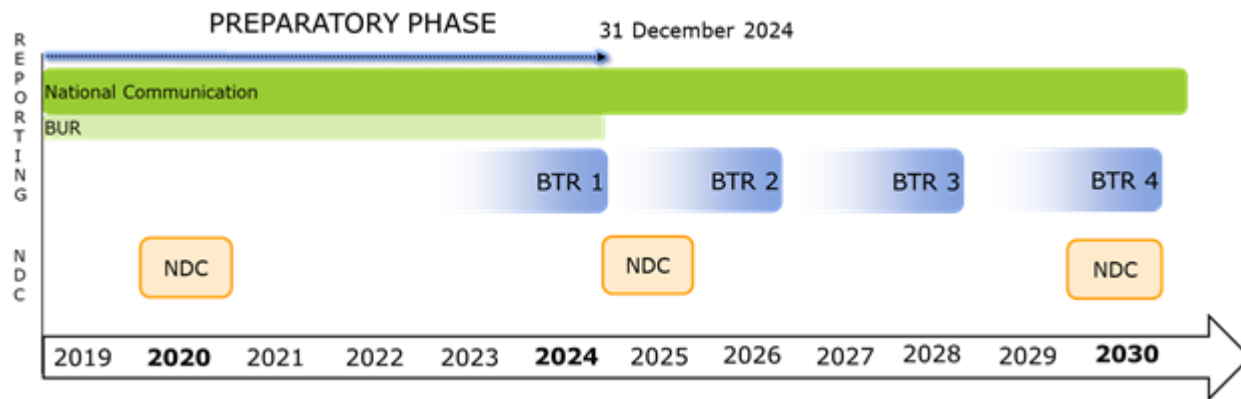
*Figure 2 Timeline for the introduction of the BTR, with the deadlines for BTR and NDC submissions. (*Source: UDP, 2019. *Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.)*

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.
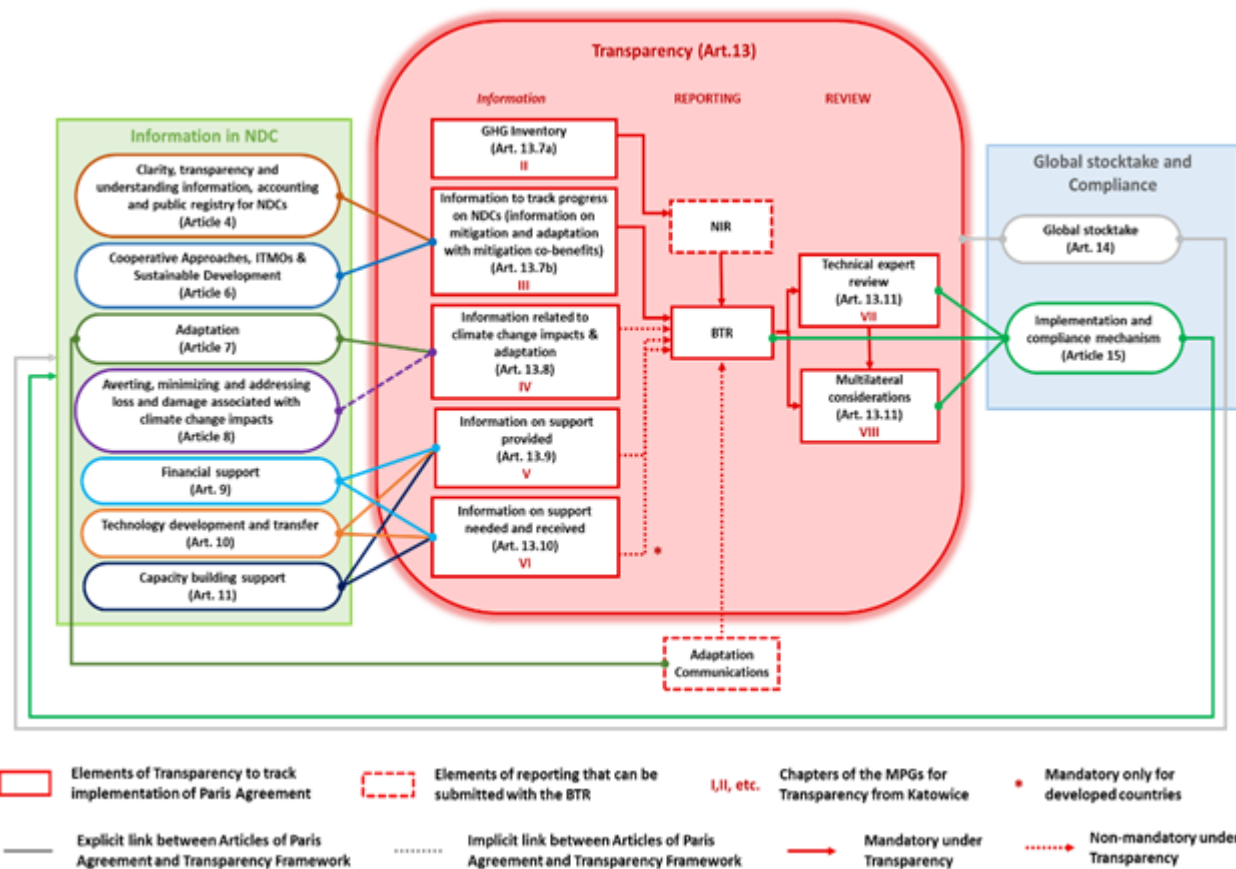
*Figure 3 Overview of the flow of information in the Transparency Framework and links with other articles of the Paris Agreement. (*Source: UDP, 2019. *Unfolding the reporting requirements for Developing Countries under the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.)*

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

At present, these multiple commitments represent a serious challenge to developing country Parties. 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, and the data received may not be properly formatted or vetted for quality.
Technical 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. In other cases, training materials may not be available in a format or language that is accessible to staff.
Access to 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 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	Organizational	Although gender is mentioned in a number of NDCs, evidence suggest that developing countries' capacity to support gender mainstreaming or to integrate gender-related climate change findings into sectoral policies 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, 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; and

· 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

Developing country Parties have forged networks and relationships to support their MRV work that flow from the original UNFCCC reporting requirements. 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. UNDP and UNEP have also served as GEF Implementing Agencies for Enabling Activity projects that have supported numerous National Communications (NCs), and – following the Durban Outcomes and Cancun Agreements – Biennial Update Reports (BURs).

The Global Support Programme (GSP), (GEF ID 5141) which is 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, 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 related to NCs, BURs and their components. Guidance documents were prepared and published, including translation of existing guidelines into other United Nations languages. To date, sixteen regional workshops (with more than 100 countries participating), 18 national workshops (in 15 countries), and 8 webinars have been organized, co-organized, and/or co-funded by the GSP. The GSP has also assisted 35 countries in reviewing 27 GHG inventories, 10 NCs, and two BURs. Five regional networks have been established, and 18 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 113 non-Annex I parties, and 73% of all non-Annex I parties, 74% of all least developed countries (LDCs), and 71% of all small island developing states (SIDS) have participated in GSP activities.

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." (Prasada Rao (2018) Mid-Term Review.)

Support for Addressing Barriers to Article 13 Implementation

With the advent of the Paris Agreement, the UNDP 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 UNDP in providing technical support to developing countries was further enhanced with the launch of the CBIT Global Coordination Platform (GCP) in the summer of 2016 (GEF ID 9675). The CBIT was established "to support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement." The primary problem it was designed to address was the lack of a global coordination 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 Global CBIT Support Platform, three global meetings have been organized so far in Copenhagen (April 2017), Berlin (April 2018), and Rome (May 2019), with the participation of 35, 40, and 36 developing countries, respectively, along with several donors, developed country parties, and civil society organizations (CSOs). At the same time, both agencies have begun to assist countries in the implementation of national CBIT projects.

In addition, the CBIT Global Coordination Platform was launched at the Berlin meeting and is now operational at https://www.cbitplatform.org/. This web-based platform was established to promote coordination and peer learning among countries receiving CBIT support. CBIT projects have 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, the self-assessment questionnaire is available for countries to take stock of national capacities on transparency. Countries designing CBIT projects can use this assessment to guide the design process and countries implementing projects can use it to track progress in building capacity and to inform design of additional transparency projects. The platform is also doing bi-monthly status updates on the CBIT though the Transparency Snapshot. From January through June 2019, the CBIT GCP website averaged 598 visits per month from almost 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 a first step, to share information about the approved CBIT projects, the platform did a series of articles interviewing country focal points. In addition, four webinars have been held to facilitate peer learning. As more countries reaching the implementation phase of their CBIT projects, peer learning activities will be designed that fit the needs of the countries based in part on the findings from the self-assessment questionnaires. The website currently contains CBIT project profiles for each country with an approved project, interviews with country implementation experts, and links to GHG methodological guidance and upcoming learning events. It also houses presentations, past webinars, and other meeting materials from CBIT workshops and other fora. The platform provides a common space for sharing news, best practices, project documents, and relevant information on CBIT implementation activities and progress at the country level. It also includes a feature to submit questions directly to the CBIT focal point identified by each country.

Under the baseline scenario, Phase I of the CBIT will provide targeted report on transparency issues until approximately December 2019, when it will end. The GSP will continue to provide support for sub-regional networks and for reporting under NCs and BURs until December 2020, when it will also end. However, the need for country support will not end; on the contrary, developing country Parties will be grappling with new regulations under the Paris rulebook as Article 13 is operationalized.

As the GSP Mid-Term Review found, "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…." (Ibid.) 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 Global CBIT Support 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 submitted in October 2019.

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. (Ibid.) 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 Global CBIT Support Platform and the Global Support Programme beyond December 2019 and December 2020, respectively. 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 and UNDP are aware that continuation of both the GSP and Global CBIT Support Platform as separate initiatives under the Paris Agreement is likely to create a duplication of effort. GSP was launched under the UNFCCC Convention, whereas the Global CBIT Support 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.

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 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

This project proposal represents the second of two sequential CBIT Phase II global projects: 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 therefore focused on a streamlined platform for knowledge delivery, support for knowledge products, and global stocktaking and dissemination of best practices—all elements that would require funding early in the subsequent phase of the project.

This Phase IIB project will continue support for the integrated platform, but it will also provide targeted technical support and training for developing country parties and south-south sub-regional networks and learning. The CBIT Phase II initiative, comprised of the Phase IIA and Phase IIB global projects, uses three 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.

Second, CBIT 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.

Third, the CBIT Phase II will utilize a partnership model for delivery. The integration of the GSP and CBIT support to countries will utilize the combined expertise and country networks of UNEP and UNDP under a common initiative that 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).

These strategies 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. (Source: GEF-7 Resource Allocation Framework as of April 25, 2018.) This project is designed to complement the country-level activities by providing regional and global support as illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Regional and Global Elements of the Project

The CBIT Global Coordination Platform project (Phase I) will continue until approximately December 2019 in order to implement its remaining activities: i.e., the global meeting (which was held in May 2019), the addition of website content, including self-assessment reports, and the baseline assessment of global gaps related to the enhanced transparency framework. The roadmap for future activity that will be produced at the conclusion of the Phase I project will be used to inform the project workplan under Phase II. Figure 4 provides an overview of the envisaged integration of the provision of information and technical assistance currently being carried out by the GSP into the Global Coordination Platform.

It should be noted that Component 2 of this CBIT II B project will ensure continuity in the CBIT integrated website by covering support for its maintenance and content development during 2023-2025, following the closure of the CBIT Phase II A project.
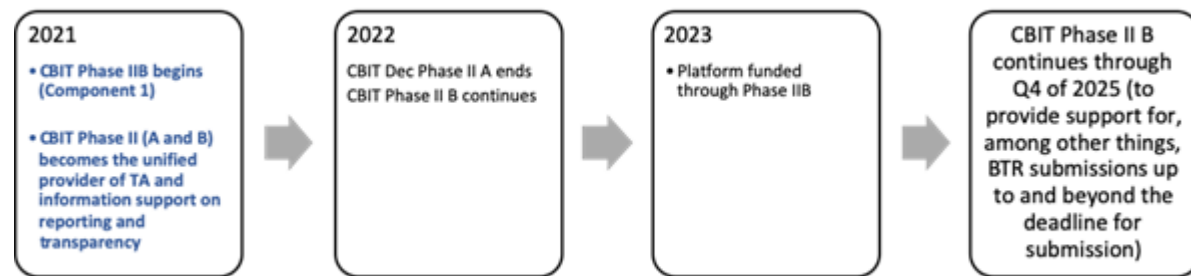

Figure 5: Proposed Timeline of Project Coordination

As a result of this project approach, it is anticipated that at least 100 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 CBIT Phase I 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 establish and maintain MRV activities and enhanced transparency frameworks to allow developing countries to undertake commitments under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. 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 5,526,550

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: January 2021 (Q1 of the project)

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 2020, 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 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. 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 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 climate transparency networks have produced results beyond initial expectations. Currently, there are functioning regional networks in Latin America, West Africa, lusophone countries, and the Balkans. This component will support the continuation of these four networks as well support the establishment of at least three new networks in other regions, such as other parts of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, as appropriate.

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

The GSP and CBIT global platform 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, 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.

Assistance to countries on GHG inventories and NC/BUR 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 mid-2018, GSP had assisted 32 countries in reviewing 25 GHG inventories, 10 NCs, and two BURs. In addition, the program has provided support to 16 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. 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 climate 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 good practice guidelines (GPG) in the National Inventory Reports that form a mandatory component of their BTRs. Of the 47 Non Annex I countries that have submitted a Biennial Update Report to date, 10 are using the revised 1996 guidelines, while 7 are using 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 related to the IPCC 2006 GPGs will take into account changes that have taken place in the GPGs due to the 2019 modification, and any other relevant guidelines coming 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 December 2020 and will begin in January 2021.

Activities under this output may include the following:

1.1.1   Finalize and implement workplan for review support prior to the conclusion of the GSP, including consensus on topics to be addressed (e.g. inventories, NC/BUR drafts, guidance and support during CGE reviews and subsequent Technical Expert Reviews of BTRs, vulnerability & adaptation assessments, incorporation of the 2019 modification of the 2006 GPGs, etc.)

1.1.2   Provide and coordinate support to NDC tracking, expert reviews of NCs, BTRs, and their supporting documentation in response to country requests, 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

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

1.1.5   Provide on-demand, customized country-targeted support, including desk reviews and in-country support.

1.1.6   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)

Deliverables will include annual workplans for review support; a request log; a brief analytical report of support provided, including peer reviews; expert reviews of national reports; preparation for ICA reviews (and subsequent Technical Expert reviews, or TERs, for BTRs); NDC tracking and a lessons learned document on common reporting issues.

Output 1.2: Regional and sub-regional MRV systems maintained and strengthened

This component will support and strengthen existing regional networks. It will also support the continuation of the facilitated peer-to-peer learning network on GHG inventories, tracking systems and common enabling good practices in the LAC region, and it will support the establishment of new networks in other regions, such as other parts of Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, as appropriate.

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 sub-regional 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 have taken place in 2019 alone. These exchanges have two key benefits: 1) they provide an opportunity to build the capacity of both parties; and 2) they allow 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.

At least seven networks 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 other sub-regional networks and to the global management team so that they can be distributed widely.

In particular, MENA region has not received enough support and it is lagging behind on the implementation of the MRV and enhanced transparency framework. As part of this output and under activity 1.2.7, specific support will be provided to the region to assist countries with the proper tools and technical backstopping to comply with the existing and new reporting requirements.

Activities under this output are linked with activities under Component 2 on the Global Coordination Platform in order to ensure that knowledge that is generate can be disseminated and used by other countries, including those outside of a given network. The platform will develop specific sections for the regional 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 "regional sections" and most knowledge sharing and peer learning will hence go through these to support the regional knowledge sharing and peer learning efforts. This 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 consisting based on self-reporting on the global coordination platform and surveys and consultations.

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 December 2020 and will begin in January 2021.

Activities under this output may include the following:

1.2.1   Recruit and appoint sub-regional network coordinators to 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 and country level participation in the enhanced transparency framework

1.2.3   Review and provide feedback on sub-regional network plans

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

1.2.5   Review requests for additional networks and approve and support requests where funding is available and countries demonstrate a clear sub-regional need for training, knowledge exchange, and capacity strengthening in common areas.

1.2.6   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.

1.2.7   Enhance South- South support and technical backstopping to the MENA region to support preparation and submission of BURs to meet existing MRV requirements and build capacity to meet future transparency requirements.

Deliverables will include new peer-to-peer learning networks for developing countries in regions not already covered and knowledge products based on findings from the networks.

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

Regional and sub-regional MRV 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 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 characteristics under Phase IIB may include:

- A menu of options for training and capacity building

- 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 14 training workshops at the 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 needs assessments based on self-reported needs and gaps and consultations. In turn, feedback from the 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.

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.

Note: 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 December 2020 and will begin in January 2021. 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 may include the following:

1.3.1 Develop a training plan based on regional needs assessments that include self-reported information by countries on their priority needs, 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 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 14 regional or sub-regional workshops and peer to peer learning, encouraging meaningful participation by both women and men, and refine the training based on participant feedback

1.3.4 Facilitate 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 14 training sessions at regional and sub-regional workshops and a certain number of formal exchanges for learning relationships between countries.

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

Budget for Component: USD 450,000

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: January 2023 (Q9 of the project)

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

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 streamlined 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.

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 December 2022, and this output will continue the operation of the platform from January 2023 through December 2025.

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. 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.

This output will ensure continuity in the knowledge and support provided by the integrated 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 integrated 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 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.

In order to have the broadest reach possible, the platform will also determine the best ways to provide content from the website to users in low-connectivity environments. This may include using CD-ROMs or USB sticks to deliver materials, developing a lower bandwidth version of the website, designing interactive features that can be completed off-line, using audio clips in lieu of video, and maintaining the newsletter. 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 may include the following:

2.1.1   Develop an annual knowledge management workplan for routine content creation, maintenance, 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 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 regional network coordination feature

Deliverables under Output 2.1 consist of an annual knowledge management plan for updating content on the integrated website, content that is maintained and updated over the course of the project, and periodic quantitative and qualitative reporting of the use of the 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. The 2019 CGE work plan alone, for example, includes a technical guide on ETF, an annual survey on capacity needs and gaps, an MRV toolbox.-

As stated above, support for development of knowledge products through the Phase IIA MSP will conclude in December 2022, and this output will provide new and updated guidance and knowledge products from January 2023 through December 2025. Potential 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; 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) and other policy and technical notes on environmental integrity, accountability, and trust.-

Activities under this output may 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, including a plan for translation of all guidance into key participant languages as needed

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 278,257

Anticipated Start Date for Activities: January 2021 (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. (See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines)

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, a Terminal Evaluation, and an annual audit.

Output 3.2 Knowledge and lessons learned generated

The project team will ensure extraction and dissemination of 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 BUR/NC development. These lessons will be made available on the platform and disseminated through the 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. Specific activities will be proposed during the PPG phase of this project.

Deliverables will consist of a final report, and lessons learned notes as appropriate throughout project implementation.

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 BURs from 2021. 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 iNDCs 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 CBIT Phase I program. The CBIT Phase IIB proposal maintains the same focus of the Phase I project: 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 CBIT 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.

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 initiative. 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.

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 500 stakeholders, and of that, 250 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.' It is also aligned with Outcome 2 of the 2018-2021 UNDP Strategic Plan: Accelerate structural transformations for sustainable 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 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. The regional network 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 its support for active and organic peer networks. Strengthening individual capacity and providing support for sub-regional "fast movers" will establish human resources that can contribute to climate action after the project has concluded. 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. CBIT Phase IIB will support a move towards continuous cooperation among Non Annex I countries.

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. Ideally, this CBIT 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.

Scaling up

The project itself represents the scaling up of activities implemented under the GSP and CBIT global platform projects, but it also has strong potential to expand. For example, the number of sub-regional networks can increase as additional countries identify areas for 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.

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.

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities No

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above,please explain why: No

Meetings and workshops conducted over the course of the CBIT Phase I 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.

Table 2 provides an overview of the anticipated project stakeholders and their envisioned role in the project.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

Table 2: Key Stakeholders

Name of Institution	Type of Stakeholder	Role in the Project
UNEP, UNDP	Implementing Agencies for the project	Both GEF implementing agencies

UNEP-DTU Partnership, UNDP	Executing Agency	The UNEP-DTU Partnership will execute project outputs implemented by UNEP. It will share its series of guidance documents on transparency with the project beneficiaries. UNDP will execute the outputs for which they are the implementing agency.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Conservation International (CI), and others	Other GEF implementing agencies	Other GEF implementing agencies will share materials developed through other global CBIT projects and will coordinate on training. The CBIT Phase II project can also serve as a means of disseminating information resources, guidance, and good practice from the FAO-GEF project 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) and will involve those project managers and experts in global platform meetings and activities.
Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement, 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	These partners will coordinate existing and upcoming support to develop national capacity globally to support countries meeting the Paris Agreement Article 13 requirements. In addition, the project will exchange information with these partners; e.g. the BUR database to be maintained by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The project will also exchange information with regional and sub-regional CSOs; e.g. with Fundación Bariloche for the Latin America and Caribbean region. 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.
UNFCCC Parties	All countries	All parties to the UNFCCC are expected to provide information and participate in discussions and information exchanges. A representative of one developing and one developed country government will serve on the Project Steering Committee (see Section II.6).

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

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. (International Union for Conservation of Nature and United States Agency for International Development (2016)) 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 Phase I 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). The Gender Responsive National Communications Toolkit (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) developed under the GSP can serve as a foundation for the development of gender mainstreaming in transparency activities. This 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 sub-regional 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 networks, activities related to gender mainstreaming are also taking place at the country level under CBIT MSP projects to be financed under GEF-6. 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 this output will be made available to a broad audience through the integrated web platform, targeted

technical support, and sub-regional trainings. Several activities also support the collection of gender-disaggregated data and knowledge that includes gender considerations.

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. M&E activities will request gender aggregated data and will consider whether project activities and/or benefits have had differentiated results by gender.

Finally, the project will adopt guidance resulting from the recommendations that will be prepared for consideration by UNFCCC Conference of the Parties at its 25th session (November 2019) on the basis of the synthesis report to be prepared by the UNFCCC Secretariat for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation "on the implementation of the gender action plan, identifying areas of progress, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken in subsequent action plans." (FCCC/SBI/2017/L.29, paragraph 5.)

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

No

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

As the project is focused on improving the capacity of governments to undertake transparency obligations, the private sector will not be directly engaged in the project. However, indirect engagement of the private sector will take place in three ways: 1) knowledge sharing from GEF-CBIT project countries related to activities they undertake to involve the private sector in mitigation activities; 2) the dissemination of methodologies and tools for engaging the private sector; e.g., in ETFs and in national GHG inventories using IPCC 2006 guidelines (industry surveys for activity data, etc.); and 3) identify investment priorities for their climate change actions and green portfolios.

5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

The following table provides an overview project-related risks and how they will be addressed.

Table 3: Project Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Level of Risk	Approach to Risk Mitigation
The integrated platform is not perceived as relevant by users and fails to maintain site traffic	Low	Although the number of internet platforms dedicated to climate change topics continues to increase, the GSP and CBIT platforms already have a specific audience, and the integrated platform will continue to provide content (e.g. the expert roster) that is not available elsewhere.
Regional and sub-regional workshops fail to attract sufficiently high-level decision- makers and practitioners	Low	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.

Guidance from the UNFCCC may change due to the results of further climate change negotiations	Low	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. Close collaboration with UNFCCC, as done in current CBIT and GSP projects, will also be important.
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	Low-Moderate	1) The information exchanges are designed to ease 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.
High turnover of participants due to high turnover of political appointees and civil servants in participating countries	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.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Implementing and Executing Arrangements: UNDP and UNEP will be the GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs) for the entire CBIT Phase II initiative, consisting of Phase IIA (2020-2022, GEF ID 10128) and Phase IIB (2021-2025, GEF ID 10088), and they are responsible to the GEF for the use of project resources as written in the project document, or any amendments agreed.

UNDP will serve as the lead agency for the project. The roles of the two agencies in project coordination and project components and outputs will be determined during the project preparation period. UNDP will be responsible for executing project outputs where it serves as an IA. Where UNEP is the IA, the UNEP DTU Partnership will execute the

outputs. The Executing Agencies will be responsible for day-to-day management of the project, including financial management and project reporting. Project administration will follow the procedures of the respective Executing Agencies, including those related to procurement, contracting, and recruitment.

Implementation and Execution Functions: Implementation and execution functions will be kept separate during project implementation as per GEF project cycle guidelines. In cases where UNDP is both the IA and the executing agency, implementation and execution functions will be distinct. Clear lines of responsibility, reporting, and accountability will be maintained between the project implementation and execution functions. Regional network coordinators under the project will not be agency staff.

Executive Management Group (EMG): The members of the EMG will be the project managers and task managers from UNEP, UNEP DTU Partnership, and UNDP. The role of the EMG will be to: review project implementation progress and progress towards project objectives; to review and agree on the annual project work plan and budget; and approve all project revisions. The EMG will meet twice a year and more frequently at the request of any member. The meetings can be held virtually or face to face and should aim to meeting before and in preparation for the AC meetings.

Advisory Committee (AC): The members of the Advisory Committee, will be agreed during the PPG phase but at a minimum will include representatives from UNEP, UNEP DTU Partnership, UNDP, the UNFCCC, the GEF Secretariat, the CGE. Upon agreement during the PPG it may also include developing countries representatives participating in the project. The role of the AC will be to review project results and impacts and provide strategic guidance to the EMG for the good functioning of the project going forward. The AC will meet annually, unless one of the committee members calls for ad hoc interim meeting. The AC meetings will be scheduled concurrently with CGE meetings or side events organized by the project to minimize travel costs. Meetings will be virtual or face to face and where possible in conjunction with other meetings to manage costs.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordination: Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in the framework of the United Nations Evaluation Group 2016 Norms and Standards (http://unevaluation.org/document/detail/1914) and, within that framework, UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP Program and Operations Policies and Procedures and 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.

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 Phase I project and the GSP into a unified support program. Figure 5 in Section II.1.a provides an overview of the timing of this process. Specifically, the project coordinator for the CBIT Phase I project will also serve as the coordinator for this proposed project, which means that the coordinator will oversee both projects during the time when they are running concurrently (see Figure 5) and will then continue to oversee Phase IIB following the conclusion of Phase IIA.

The proposed project will also liaise with planned and ongoing multi-country CBIT 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.

Coordination with other stakeholders is outlined in Table 2.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions

Yes
If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD

- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC

- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC

- Others

This CBIT Phase IIB project proposal is consistent with the Paris Agreement and national priorities, such as national communications, BURs, and NDCs, as it will support countries in obtaining the necessary capacities and tools to track the 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 the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (SDG 13) and at the same time provide a forum encouraging partnerships among relevant actors (SDG 17).

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

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

The project will design a knowledge and experience feedback mechanism during the PPG phase that will allow increased visibility regarding the status and needs of national reporting undertaken with the support of CC enabling activities projects and the development of enhanced transparency frameworks supported by CBIT country-level projects. This mechanism will be a deliverable under Output 3.2, and it will support information gathering and planning for the regional networks activities and training plans under Output 1.2 and 1.3, respectively.

Special attention has been given in Phase IIB to knowledge accessibility in all project components. Steps to increase accessibility will include distributing information from 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 Phase I 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." (Prasada Rao (2018): Mid-Term Review. Recommendation R5.4.) It has 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. (Ibid.)

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, 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); and
- other policy and technical notes on environmental integrity; accountability and trust.

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 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 2025.

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place