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## **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this document is to provide an update on activities undertaken by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) establishment and operations. The update covers activities that have taken place between November 30, 2018 and April 30, 2019, since the last Progress Report was presented for the 55<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting.<sup>1</sup>

## CBIT SUPPORT UNDER GEF-7

2. The GEF-7 period of July 2018 to June 2022 coincides with a key phase in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The GEF-7 framework is structured to address the seminal Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions for the Paris Agreement, and to further support climate action in developing countries in line with the GEF's role as an operating entity of the financial mechanism for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The support for the CBIT is an important theme addressed in the Climate Change Mitigation Strategy within the GEF-7 Programming Directions, endorsed at the 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2018.<sup>2</sup>

3. In GEF-7, countries have access to support for CBIT and Convention obligations, including the National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), from GEF Trust Fund set-aside resources that do not draw on country allocations. According to the agreed GEF-7 Resource Allocation Framework, \$55 million have been notionally allocated to the CBIT.

4. GEF's country allocations are available to deliver on other enabling activities. In general, all climate change projects are required to demonstrate alignment to national priorities included in national climate strategies and plans, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), NCs, BURs, and Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs).

5. The GEF Secretariat has continued to engage with GEF Agencies and countries about their interest to submit CBIT proposals and national priorities during GEF-7. Some countries that did not receive support in GEF-6 required more time to develop their proposals or to complete the Paris Agreement accession and/or ratification process. A number of these countries have already resubmitted concepts for approval during GEF-7. The GEF Secretariat stands ready to work with these countries and others upon request to address and respond to their needs.

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<sup>1</sup> GEF, 2018, [Progress Report on Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.55/Inf.12.

<sup>2</sup> GEF, 2018, [Summary of the Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/19/Rev.02.

## **CBIT TRUST FUND**

6. Early support for CBIT was provided to countries upon request through the CBIT Trust Fund from September 2016 until October 2018.

7. The CBIT Trust Fund establishment was approved by the 50<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2016, in response to the Paris Agreement and its decision. The CBIT Trust Fund was established in accordance with the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures, and became operational in September 2016. The Council also invited the World Bank to act as Trustee.<sup>3</sup>

8. Originally, the CBIT Trust Fund was set to accept contributions until June 30, 2018 at the end of the GEF-6 period. The Council, at its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting in June 2018, decided to extend the CBIT Trust Fund contribution date and project approval date to October 31, 2018, to accommodate additional voluntary financial contributions to be made.<sup>4</sup>

9. As of March 31, 2019, the Trustee had received a total amount of \$61.6 million from 14 donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This figure represents the full pledged amount by all participating donors per their respective contribution agreements to the CBIT Trust Fund.

10. From late 2016 to October 2018, the GEF Secretariat approved 44 CBIT projects using resources from the CBIT Trust Fund. Within two years of its establishment, the CBIT Trust Fund successfully programmed all available resources—amounting to \$58.3 million, or 95 percent of the total contributions paid. The amount includes GEF project financing, project preparation grants, and agency fees.

11. A modest amount of resources has been set aside to cover CBIT Trust Fund administrative costs until the date of the trust fund's termination on April 30, 2025, which will be 18 months after the final Trustee commitment and cash transfer date of October 31, 2023.

## **CBIT OPERATIONALIZATION**

12. Since the last Progress Report, the GEF Secretariat has approved two additional CBIT projects for two countries. In addition, two full-sized projects have been included in the Work Program for consideration by the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2019.<sup>5</sup> When approved, these two projects under consideration will support six countries.

13. The total CBIT project portfolio as of April 2019 includes 43 country projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe (ECA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) that are

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<sup>3</sup> GEF, 2016, [Establishment of a New Trust Fund for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.50/05.

<sup>4</sup> GEF, 2018, [Joint Summary of the Chairs](#), 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Council.

<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2019, [Work Program](#), Council document GEF/C.56/09.

addressing priority needs to meet enhanced transparency requirements from the Paris Agreement. There is also one regional project supporting five Eastern and Southern African countries. The portfolio also includes four global projects that aim to improve knowledge sharing, coordination, and facilitate additional capacity-building.

14. Of the 48 projects, two are pending Council approval in June 2019, 29 are PIF approved and thus under development, and 17 have been CEO approved and have begun implementation.

15. The CBIT Programming Directions stipulated that “proposals [would] be prioritized for those countries that are in most need of capacity-building assistance for transparency-related activities, in particular [SIDS and LDCs].”<sup>6</sup> Through these projects, 14 least developed countries (LDCs) and seven small island developing States (SIDS) are being supported in their efforts to enhance transparency.

### **PROJECT CYCLE ANALYSIS**

16. The GEF Secretariat continues to monitor the timeliness of project review, approval, and preparation of the CBIT projects. This analysis continues to show a high level of compliance with the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy.<sup>7</sup> The average amount of time for the GEF Secretariat to complete the initial project review was ten working days, meeting the current corporate standards.

17. For the 46 CBIT projects approved to date, the amount of time needed on average to receive PIF approval was almost twelve weeks (58 working days). This period represents the time necessary for countries and agencies to review and incorporate the GEF Secretariat’s feedback into the CBIT proposals, and to resubmit to the Secretariat for final review and approval.

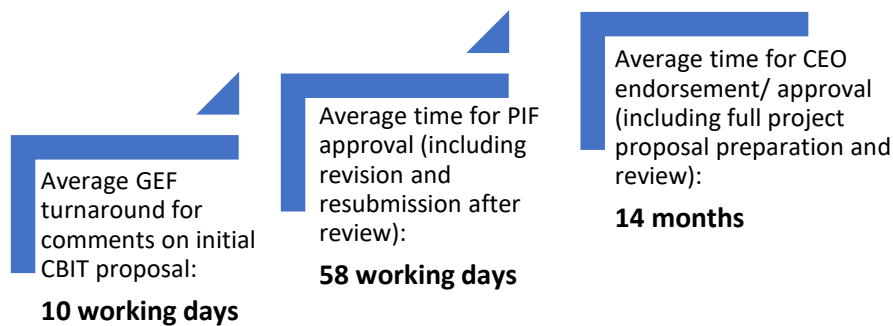
18. Upon project concept approval, GEF agencies have taken 11 months on average to submit full CBIT project proposals for CEO endorsement review and approval. An additional 15 weeks on average has been required for CBIT projects to move through the final review and feedback stage in order to receive CEO endorsement/approval, bringing the total average amount of time from concept approval to CEO endorsement/approval to 14 months.

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<sup>6</sup> GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document, GEF/C.50/06.

<sup>7</sup> GEF, 2016, [Project and Program Cycle Policy](#), Policy: OP/PL/01.

**Figure 1: CBIT Project Approval Process - Timeline on Average (as of April 30, 2019)**



19. According to the new Project Cancellation Policy, if a medium-sized project (with the required documentation), approved from March 1, 2019 onwards, is not submitted for CEO approval within eight months of the date of PIF approval or if after twelve months from the date of PIF approval the project has not been CEO approved, the CEO notifies the Agency, the recipient country Operational Focal Point, and the Trustee informing them of the cancellation of the project stating an effective date for the cancellation.<sup>8</sup> Correspondingly, if a full-sized project is not submitted for CEO endorsement within 12 months of the date of Council approval or if after 18 months from the date of Council approval, the project has not been CEO endorsed, the project is cancelled by the CEO. Therefore, it is likely that this new policy results in shorter timelines for CBIT project CEO approvals and endorsements.

#### **PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW**

20. The number of projects approved per financial year has varied since the CBIT Trust Fund was established. Eleven projects were approved by the GEF Secretariat in fiscal year 2017, while in fiscal year 2018 a total of 30 projects were approved. In sum, 41 CBIT projects were approved in GEF-6. Since the launch of GEF-7 in fiscal year 2019, five CBIT projects have been approved and two projects are pending Council approval.

21. Overall, the approved CBIT project proposals continue to largely address the eligible programming activities set forth in the CBIT Programming Directions.<sup>9</sup> The most common CBIT project activities among the 43 country projects were grouped into the following eleven types of activities:

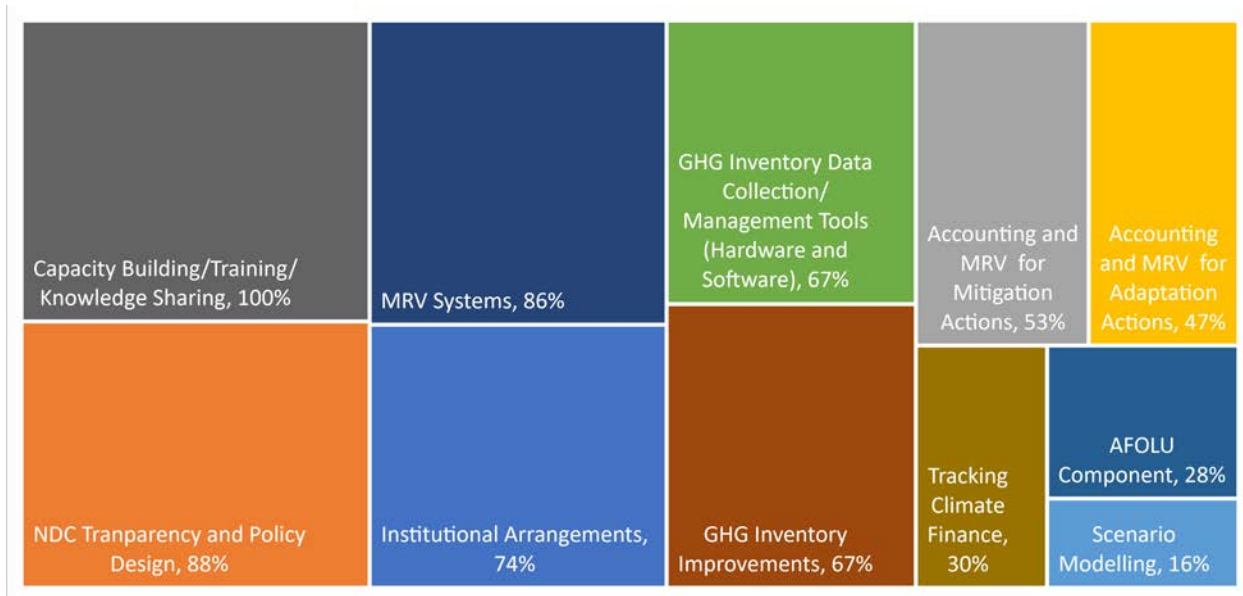
- (a) Enhancement and/or establishment of new institutional arrangements;
- (b) Use of NDC transparency activities to inform policy design;
- (c) Accounting and measurement, review and verification (MRV) methodologies for mitigation actions;

<sup>8</sup> GEF, 2018, [Program Cancellation](#), Policy OP/PL/02

<sup>9</sup> GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

- (d) Accounting and MRV methodologies for adaptation actions;
- (e) Economic and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions scenario modelling;
- (f) GHG inventory data collection and management tools;
- (g) Enhancement and/or establishment of new MRV systems;
- (h) GHG inventory improvements including development of country-specific emission factors and activity data;
- (i) Capacity building, training, and knowledge sharing;
- (j) Tracking climate finance, and;
- (k) Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU) focused activities.

**Figure 2: CBIT Project Priorities per Type of Activity (as of April 30, 2019)**



22. Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of approved CBIT projects that included a particular type of activity in their proposal, while also showing the overall proportion of project activity types as they relate to one another. The percentages in the figure represent a count of occurrences of type of activity across the portfolio and are not correlated to the amount of resources designated for specific activities.

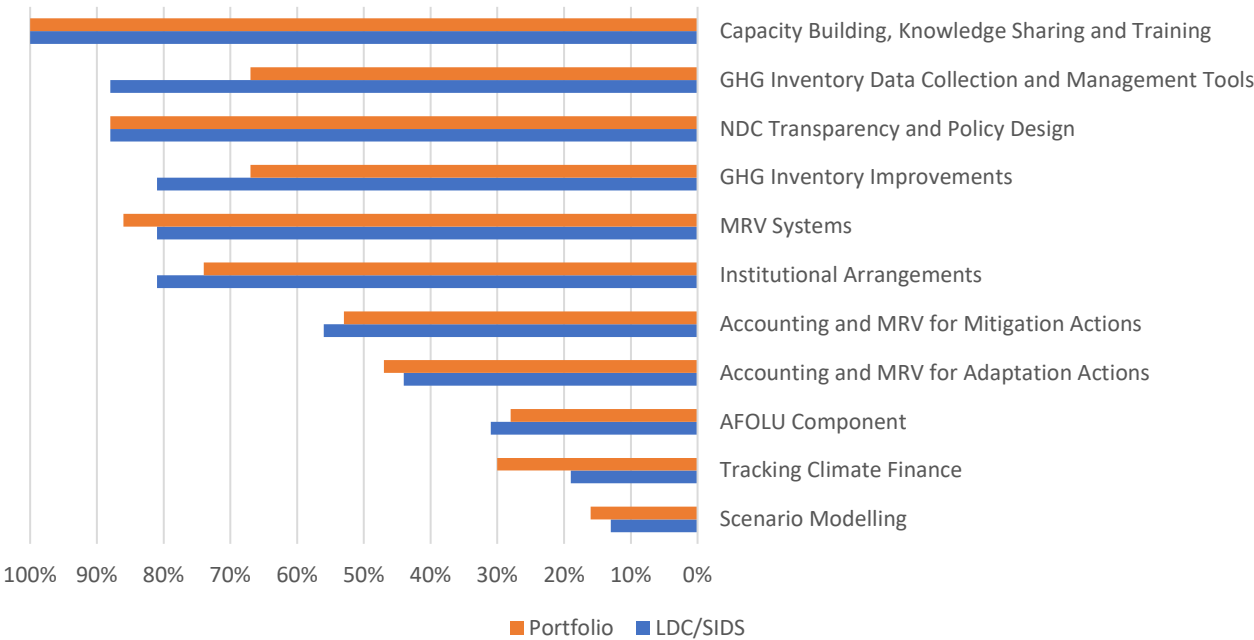
23. Compared to June 2018, when this analysis was carried out for the first time, the distribution of types of activities has not changed significantly. In general, a majority of projects emphasize capacity building, knowledge sharing, and training activities, as well as activities to strengthen institutional arrangements, MRV systems, and NDC transparency and policy design. In contrast, only a few countries have included scenario modelling of economic and/or GHG

emissions trends in their project concepts, and less than a third of CBIT projects included a project component dedicated towards the tracking and transparent reporting of support needed and received.

24. While adaptation is a major focus of many developing countries’ NDCs, 47 percent of CBIT proposals have included a component specific to the establishment or improvement of MRV for adaptation activities. Among CBIT projects, 28 percent have included a specific component for enhancing measurement and transparency of GHG emissions from the AFOLU sector, reflecting the relative importance of emissions from the AFOLU sector in the countries supported to date and the inherent challenges in the sector to quantify and report emissions and removals due to limited data and technical capacities for the quantification and projections of AFOLU-related emissions, as compared to other sectors.

25. The project activities proposed by LDCs and SIDS to date have showed similar prioritization compared to the overall portfolio, as shown in Figure 3. However, there are some differences in the proportion of countries prioritizing certain activity categories. The largest difference is evident in the proportion of projects that targeted GHG inventory data collection and management tools as well as overall GHG inventory improvements. For LDC/SIDS CBIT projects, the proportion was higher (88 percent and 81 percent, respectively) than the overall CBIT portfolio (67 percent and 67 percent, respectively). The overall portfolio showed higher priorities for tracking climate finance (30 percent compared to 19 percent for LDC/SIDS projects) and scenario modelling (16 percent compared to 13 percent for LDC/SIDS projects).

**Figure 3: LDC/SIDS CBIT Project Priorities per Type of Activity Compared to Overall Portfolio (as of April 30, 2019)**



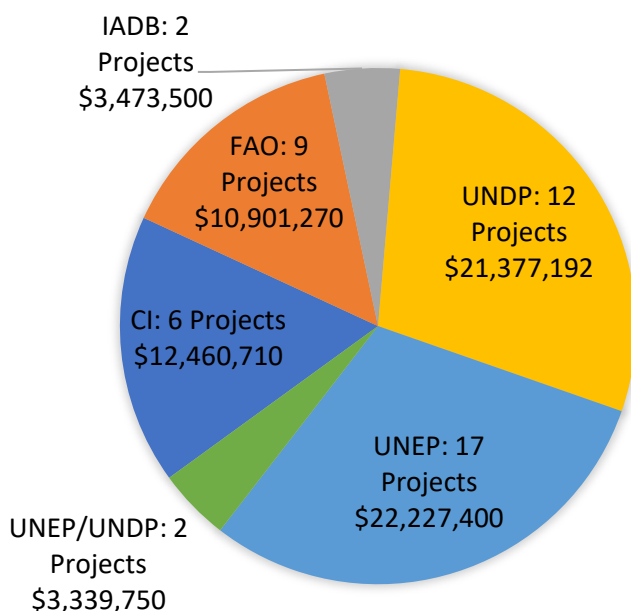


## Agency Distribution

26. CBIT projects have so far been submitted by five out of the 18 GEF Agencies. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has the largest share with 17 projects, followed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with 12 projects, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with nine, Conservation International (CI) with six, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) with two projects. In addition, UNDP and UNEP have had two joint projects approved under CBIT.

27. Figure 4 shows the distribution of approved CBIT projects per GEF implementing agency by number of projects and associated CBIT resources, including GEF project financing, project preparation grants, and agency fees.

**Figure 4: CBIT Projects by Agency (as of April 30, 2019)**



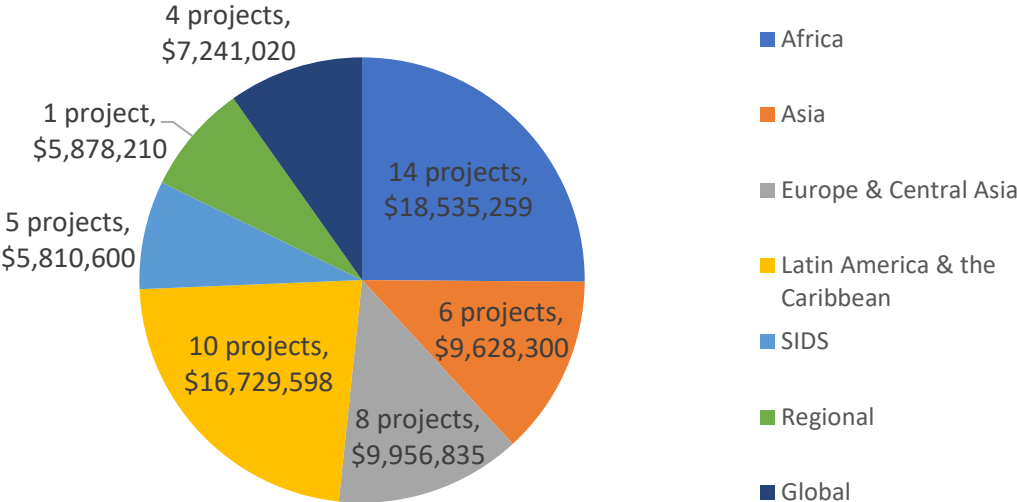
28. Countries have engaged a wide choice of GEF implementing agencies for CBIT projects in comparison to projects supporting the preparation of NCs and BURs. Most NC and BUR projects have been implemented by UNEP and UNDP. The World Bank has also been engaged in NCs the past.

## Regional Distribution

29. Overall, the CBIT Trust Fund is supporting a regionally balanced portfolio. A breakdown of the portfolio by region is provided in Figure 5. The Africa region has had 14 projects approved to date, with cumulative totals amounting to \$18.5 million, while the LAC region has had ten amounting to \$16.7 million. The ECA and Asia regions are next with a total of eight

projects (amounting to \$10.0 million) and six projects (amounting to \$9.6 million), respectively. Five CBIT projects in SIDS have been approved for a total of \$5.8 million in resources and one regional project in Africa and SIDS (\$5.9 million) is awaiting Council approval. Finally, four CBIT projects with a global scope have been approved (\$7.2 million). The total portfolio amount to date for CBIT is \$73.8 million.

**Figure 5: CBIT Projects by Region (as of April 30, 2019)<sup>10</sup>**

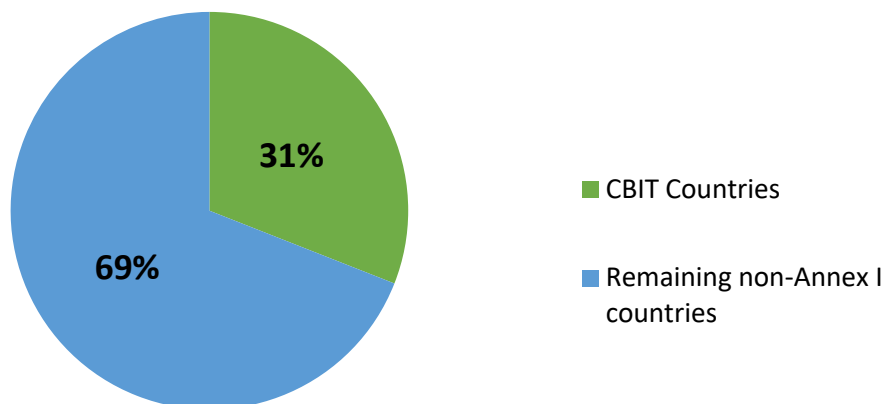


**Coverage of CBIT Support in Non-Annex I Parties**

30. Figure 6 shows the proportion of non-Annex I Parties supported by CBIT through national and regional projects. As of April 30, 2019, 48 out of 155 non-Annex-I Parties or 31 percent, have received CBIT support. The share of non-Annex I parties receiving CBIT support has increased from 25 percent as of June 2018.

<sup>10</sup> The regional project for \$5.9 million includes five countries (Botswana, Comoros, Eritrea, Seychelles and Zambia). Individually, these countries are in Africa and SIDS regions.

**Figure 6: Share of Non-Annex I Parties Supported by Approved CBIT National Projects  
(as of April 30, 2019)**

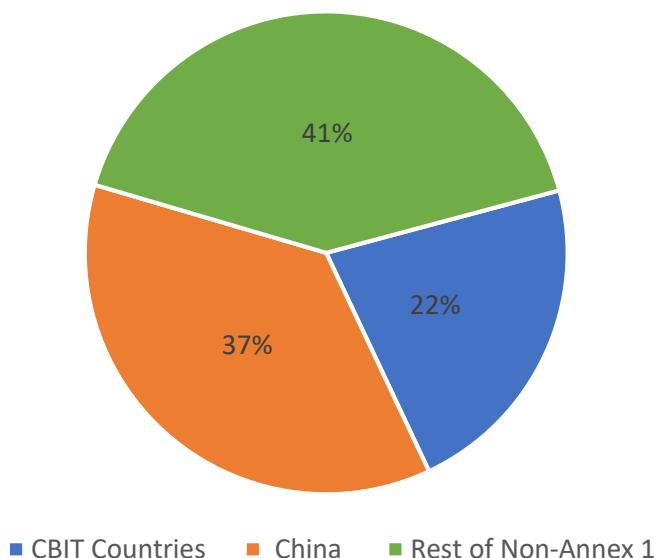


31. Figure 7 describes the cumulative GHG profile of countries supported through CBIT national and regional projects to date. Using 2014 data from the World Resources Institute’s (WRI) online CAIT Climate Data Explorer, total GHG emissions from Non-Annex 1 Parties measured 31,737 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e), including China (11,601 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) and India (3,202 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e). India and China together make up almost half of all Non-Annex 1 GHG emissions (47 percent).<sup>11</sup>

32. In total, GHG emissions from the 48 CBIT countries supported, including India, represent approximately 22 percent of total GHG emissions from Non-Annex 1 countries, or 7,042 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. The share of GHG emissions from non-Annex I countries receiving CBIT support has increased from 11 percent as of June 2018. The rest of Non-Annex I countries represent 41 percent of total Non-Annex I GHG emissions (13,095 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) and 27 percent of total global GHG emissions in 2014.

<sup>11</sup> World Resources Institute, CAIT Climate Data Explorer, 2017. Available online at: <http://cait.wri.org>

**Figure 7: GHG Emissions of Countries Supported by CBIT Projects and Percentage of Total Non-Annex 1 GHG Emissions (2014)**



33. Altogether, about 80 countries have so far been part of the CBIT initiative, either through national and regional projects and/or through participation in capacity building and other support through the global projects. As the global coordination platform matures and rolls out additional outreach, knowledge sharing and training activities, the number of participating countries is expected to increase. The target for the CBIT as stated in the *Programming Directions* document is supporting a minimum of 100 countries that have articulated their capacity needs and priorities for transparency.<sup>12</sup>

#### **APPROVED CBIT PROJECTS SINCE LAST PROGRESS REPORT**

34. One new project has been approved since November 30, 2018 from Armenia. In addition, two full-sized projects have been included in the Work Program for consideration by the 56<sup>th</sup> GEF Council in June 2019 and are pending Council approval. Information on these projects is summarized in this section, while details on all CBIT projects can be found in Annex II of this document.

35. Armenia ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017. Its NDC identifies transparency as a key component of its contribution, and states that transparency of mitigation and adaptation actions will be ensured through the introduction of a national and international MRV of GHG mitigation system, and an open and accessible information system with a participatory process. However, Armenia lacks the formal institutional arrangements and corresponding technical capacity in key sectors to comply with the enhanced transparency requirements. It also lacks a

<sup>12</sup> GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

proper MRV infrastructure for assessing and reporting on mitigation and adaptation actions and policies and on support received. This CBIT project will establish national institutional arrangements for an enhanced transparency framework and supporting MRV systems that will include community-level mitigation activities under the Covenant of Mayors in overall reporting on climate actions for the NDC. The project will also carry out capacity-building activities to support transparency-related activities over time and build upon existing institutions such as the Inter-Agency Council.

36. India's CBIT proposal is presented for June 2019 Council consideration. India represents a large share of the total GHG emissions of Non-Annex 1 Parties, so its efforts to enhance its capacity to meet the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework will have a great impact under the Paris Agreement. To date, India has developed its capacity for national reporting to the UNFCCC through the preparation of its first and second NCs and BURs. However, it has identified remaining capacity needs, including timely and efficient coordination, capacity retention mechanisms, capacity to report high quality GHG emission inventories, capacity to track its NDC, and access to and registry of climate information by key stakeholders. This CBIT project aims to address these needs by creating an enabling environment through supporting mandates and a web-based National Institutional Coordination System; strengthening institutional capacity for MRV of climate information; and enabling the National Climate Registry to share relevant information in a transparent manner to facilitate direct interface between public, civil society and policy planners.

37. A first multi-country CBIT project is presented to Council for approval. It aims to strengthen the capacity of five of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member States, including Botswana, Comoros, Eritrea, Seychelles and Zambia to comply with transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. The project seeks to establish an Eastern and Southern Africa Regional CBIT transparency framework for MRV of climate actions to support reporting on their NDCs and knowledge dissemination. The project is addressing pre-identified barriers at the national level in each of the participating countries when it comes to MRV of GHG emissions, while including also a regional component for peer exchange programs and cross-learning. The project draws on best available international practice, including from executing partners such as the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), while focusing on developing and strengthening national-level capacity for country-driven and country-owned MRV. For example, the project will develop country-specific indicators for tracking NDC implementation, as well as establish and operationalize national GHG inventories and online MRV systems. The project will also utilize a training-of-trainers approach, delivered through academic institutions, thereby establishing long-term, in-house capacity in participating countries. Training provided through the project will for the most part also be open to benefit other COMESA countries, even if they are not formally part of the project. Finally, the project links with the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and will share lessons learned through it.

#### **UPDATES FROM CBIT PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION**

38. Since the last Progress Report, five countries have received CEO Approval after the submission and review of their full project proposals. These countries are: Cote d'Ivoire, Macedonia, Mongolia, Peru and Serbia.

39. All 15 CEO approved country projects have submitted tracking tools with their full project proposals. Among the specific indicators each project incorporates into its project results framework, a common indicator is the qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency-related activities. The assessment is done on a scale of 1 to 4.<sup>13</sup> The table below shows the respective ratings for each of the CEO Approved national projects.

**Table 1: Qualitative Assessment of Institutional Capacity for Transparency-related Activities of CEO Endorsed/Approved CBIT Projects (as of April 30, 2019)**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Baseline Rating</i>	<i>Target Rating</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	2	3
<i>Chile</i>	2	4
<i>Costa Rica</i>	2	4
<i>Cote d'Ivoire</i>	1	4
<i>Ghana</i>	2	4
<i>Kenya</i>	3	4
<i>Liberia</i>	2	4
<i>Macedonia</i>	2	3
<i>Mongolia</i>	2	3
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	2	3
<i>Peru</i>	2	3
<i>Serbia</i>	2	4
<i>South Africa</i>	2	4
<i>Uganda</i>	2	4
<i>Uruguay</i>	2	3

40. In addition, all projects have also provided assessments and target ratings for the quality of MRV systems, which is on a scale of 1 to 10. Some of these assessments are done by specific areas of MRV systems. Table 2 below shows the respective ratings for each country.

<sup>13</sup> For further guidance on these indicators and the CBIT Results Framework, see GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

**Table 2: Qualitative Assessment of MRV Systems of CEO Endorsed/Approved CBIT Projects  
(as of April 30, 2019)**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Baseline Rating</i>	<i>Target Rating</i>
<i>Cambodia</i>	Quality of MRV systems tracking results related to low-GHG development and GHG emissions mitigation	2	4
<i>Chile</i>	Inventory of energy related GHG emissions	6	8
	Inventory of waste and IPPU related GHG emissions	5	8
	M&E of adaptation measures	1	4
	MRV of support	4	6
<i>Costa Rica</i>	Overall MRV system	3	5
<i>Ghana</i>	Overall MRV system	3	5
<i>Cote d'Ivoire</i>	Overall MRV system	2	6
<i>Kenya</i>	Reliable, accurate and credible reports generated in a timely manner for UNFCCC reporting and used by decision makers and other stakeholders in Kenya	3	5
	A functional coordination platform for all transparency-related activities and other reporting established and working	1	5
<i>Liberia</i>	Enhancing GHG inventory &MRV systems for the Land Use, Agriculture, Energy, Transport and Waste sectors	1	7
	M&E tracking of NDC implementation (e.g. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPAs), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)	1	7
<i>Macedonia</i>	Overall MRV system	5	7
<i>Mongolia</i>	Quality of MRV systems for AFOLU sector	3	6
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	Measurement systems are strong and cover a greater percentage of activities – feedback loops exist even if they are not fully functioning	3	6
<i>Peru</i>	Inventory of agriculture related GHG emissions	4	7
	Information of GHG emissions projections	2	5
	M&E adaptation measures	1	4
	MRV of Finance	2	5
<i>Serbia</i>	Overall MRV system	5	8
<i>South Africa</i>	Overall MRV system	2	6
<i>Uganda</i>	Overall MRV system	3	7
<i>Uruguay</i>	National GHG Inventories reports, national coverage for inventory years: 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Reports published, and results included in NCs and BUR 1	6	8

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Baseline Rating</i>	<i>Target Rating</i>
	Only mitigation measures' implementation progress monitored and reported in BUR 1. Adaptation measures included in Sectoral Adaptation Plans to be monitored and evaluated through indicators established in the same. No verification.	3	6

41. As these 15 projects have only recently been fully approved, project activities are still in the early stages of implementation and thus have not yet gone through the required monitoring and evaluation process to assess results. Through ongoing interaction with countries, however, the GEF Secretariat has gathered anecdotal evidence of best practices and lessons learned from several CBIT countries and learned how GEF support is helping them build the capacity needed to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

42. Since the last Progress Report included early observations and findings from projects in Latin America, this progress report will focus on projects under implementation in Africa.

#### **COUNTRY CASE STUDIES FROM AFRICA**

##### **Ghana**

43. While the Ghana CBIT project has just begun implementation, already key lessons on how to prioritize CBIT activities and ensure their alignment with national priorities are emerging. The key lessons include the need to focus on important capacity building needs from the international consultation and analysis (ICA) process for the BUR, especially those agreed on in the summary report, and to think about how to use the CBIT project as a bridge towards the effective participation in the fully-fledged transparency framework by 2024.

44. In Ghana, two key challenges for transparency have been identified: access to quality data and deepening the mainstreaming of MRV functions. The CBIT project is addressing mainly the mainstreaming aspects. For this, it is important to demonstrate the real value-addition of GHG information to domestic policy climate planning.

45. In order to address the data quality issue, Ghana is seeking to partner with institutions that are responsible for the generation and supply of primary data for the inventory and work together to improve the quality of the data.

##### **Liberia**

46. In Liberia, the key identified transparency capacity issue that the CBIT project is trying to address is weak national capacities for measuring and reporting GHG emissions in a timely manner within the different NDC sectors. Liberia has found that it is very important to design the project concept based on the national strategy documents and the NDC, to ensure that the



CBIT project is government driven and aligns strongly with other national projects and initiatives related to GHG to ensure project sustainability and ownership.

47. In addition, Liberia has identified the need for adequate consultation and stakeholder engagement as key for unlocking national ownership and effective implementation.

## **Kenya**

48. In Kenya, data sharing, limited Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) software capacity, limited ownership of the climate reporting process, and multiple donor interests have all been identified as challenges towards enhanced transparency. Through the CBIT project, Kenya aims to institutionalize data sharing between sectors, increase the aptitude of different stakeholders on the IPCC software and understanding of GHG emissions calculations through learning by doing facilitated by GHGMI, centralize the reporting process and make the Climate Change Directorate the repository of all climate change data, and helped coordinate with different donors to avoid duplication of efforts.

49. Kenya has realized that implementation and data sharing mechanisms work differently in each country, and therefore there is a need to consider this factor in the design phase and allow for some adaptive management during implementation. For instance, Kenya preferred data sharing agreements for sectors as opposed to Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between ministries.

## **Uganda**

50. In Uganda, staff turnover and lack of practical application of the acquired knowledge have been identified as the major challenges to build capacity for GHG inventory and MRV efforts to date, as well as limited practice of knowledge and information obtained from trainings. In the past, trainings have at times not availed the trainees with the needed equipment or software to practice the acquired knowledge. Further, GHG activities are not mainstreamed in sector activities and plans and there are no existing formal arrangements to facilitate GHG data operations, contributing to the underutilization of trained technical expertise.

51. The CBIT project in Uganda is working on MOUs to formalize and institutionalize data collection, processing and sharing between the sector hubs and Ministry of Water and Environment, Climate Change Department. It is also developing a technical guide to operationalize the MOU. It is expected that this will create a strong link between the sectors and Climate Change Department to enable stakeholders to share GHG data and improve the national capacity for MRV.

52. The CBIT project in Uganda has prioritized stakeholder sensitization to empower local technical staff in key emission sectors to support national reporting. It is also preparing formal

cooperation for data sharing with non-state actors, in order to capture a wider audience of stakeholders.

53. The project in Uganda has found that extensive sensitization of stakeholders on transparency requirements, GHG inventories and MRV should be considered at the planning stage, as experience has shown that there is variation in knowledge from sector to sector, depending on how exposed the teams have been to climate related capacity building. Further, another lesson learned is considering a step-wise approach in design and implementation of CBIT projects. A project could consider either supporting one or two sector(s) at a time rather than targeting all sectors in the short time of project implementation associated with these projects, or map out the sectors with some level of capacity built and instead focus on these to fully achieve comprehensive GHG inventories and MRV capacity.

#### **COORDINATION**

54. The GEF continues to engage and coordinate with existing and emerging GHG transparency initiatives to help implement the CBIT, including the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the Coalition on Paris Agreement Capacity Building, the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), the NDC Partnership, the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for Co-Innovation (PaSTI), and other entities engaged in enhancing transparency.

55. A GEF Secretariat representative attended the ICAT Advisory Committee Meeting and Strategy Workshop on February 6-7, 2019, where outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 24 with regards to the enhanced transparency framework and updates on the CBIT operationalization were considered in discussions on the proposed ICAT strategy and work program for the next three years. The presence and participation on behalf of the GEF was appreciated, especially as continued collaboration and coordination between the CBIT and ICAT activities was identified as a key element of ICAT's future work, along with a country driven focus and alignment with the enhanced transparency framework requirements.

56. Opportunities for consultations among partners play an increasingly important role as implementation experiences and lessons learned become available, including the upcoming CBIT Coordination Meeting ahead of the Third Annual CBIT Technical Workshop in May 2019 in Rome, Italy. The GEF Secretariat is committed to discuss ongoing and planned activities and share experiences with partners, particularly to enhance coordination of activities at the country and regional level.

#### **GLOBAL COORDINATION PLATFORM**

57. The CBIT Global Coordination Platform has been operating since April 2018.<sup>14</sup> It aims to bring together practitioners from countries and agencies in order to enable coordination of

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.cbitplatform.org/>

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.

58. The Global Coordination Platform currently contains CBIT project profiles for each country with an approved project, interviews with country implementation experts, links to GHG methodological guidance and upcoming learning events, and houses presentation and other meeting materials from CBIT workshops and other fora.

59. 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 digital forum for discussion and a feature to submit questions directly to the CBIT focal point identified by each country.

#### **COP 24 ENGAGEMENT**

60. The GEF Secretariat participated in UNFCCC COP 24 from December 2 to 14, 2018, in Katowice, Poland. The GEF participated in formal and informal negotiations around the transparency agenda, engaged in bilateral discussions with current and prospective CBIT countries, and reported on the progress of the CBIT.

61. The GEF Report to the COP included information on the implementation of the CBIT during the 2018 fiscal year.<sup>15, 16</sup> The GEF Secretariat also updated its CBIT bifold publication in November 2018 for outreach purposes, in time for COP 24. The publication includes a summary of CBIT programming to date, including key areas of support. It is available in print and online.<sup>17</sup>

62. The GEF received guidance from COP 24, including elements of relevance to the CBIT.<sup>18</sup> Parties welcomed the inclusion of support for the CBIT in GEF-7, which enhances predictability of funding for the Initiative, and requested the GEF to continue to manage the CBIT to fund a diversity of countries and regions, taking into account each country's capacity, in line with priorities of support as contained in its programming.

63. During COP 24, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) adopted a series of decisions referred to as the Katowice Rulebook, including the "modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement," which will be taken into consideration for CBIT support. The CMA also decided that Parties shall submit their first

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<sup>15</sup> GEF, 2018, [Report of the GEF to the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the COP to UNFCCC](#).

<sup>16</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/6e.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> GEF, 2018, [The Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency \(CBIT\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> UNFCCC, 2018, Decision 10/CP.24

biennial transparency report and national inventory report at the latest by December 31, 2024 and that LDCs and SIDS may submit this information at their discretion.<sup>19</sup>

64. In addition, the GEF received guidance from the CMA to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent biennial transparency reports, to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support, and to continue to support the operation of the CBIT as a priority reporting-related need. The CMA further urged the GEF and its implementing and executing agencies and encouraged the GEF Council to consider options, including through better streamlining of processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements, for improving the efficiency of providing support for reporting.<sup>20</sup>

65. The GEF Secretariat was invited to participate in several COP 24 side events related to the transparency framework, during which the GEF continued to raise awareness of support available through the CBIT, progress to date and lessons learned, including:

- (a) How to maximize the leverage out of the design of the NDC and implementation of the transparency framework—Key elements for meaningful capacity building program, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) at Japan Pavilion, December 5, 2018;
- (b) Enhancing the preparedness of developing countries to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework, UNFCCC, December 11, 2018;
- (c) CBIT Update: Early Findings and Outlook, GEF Partnership Pavilion, December 13, 2018

#### **AWARENESS RAISING AND OUTREACH**

66. Since the last Progress Report, awareness raising, and outreach activities have continued through various channels, including the following:

- (a) The CBIT webpage has been updated, including links to approved project documents.<sup>21</sup>
- (b) The GEF has sent virtual presentation videos and information materials to be shared at regional events including: “Enhanced Transparency Framework after Katowice – support initiatives and country perspectives” organized by UNFCCC, PATPA and UNEP-DTU at the Africa Climate Week on March 22, 2018; and the PATPA Asia Regional Workshop held in Jakarta, Indonesia on April 24-26, 2019.

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<sup>19</sup> UNFCCC, 2018, Decision 18/CMA.1

<sup>20</sup> UNFCCC, 2018, Decision 18/CMA.1

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit>

## **CBIT OUTLOOK**

67. Programming for CBIT resources in the GEF-7 period has made steady progress during fiscal year 2019. Including the two projects in the Work Program pending Council approval, \$15.4 million (or 28 percent) of the \$55 million indicative resources set aside for CBIT from the GEF Trust Fund have been programmed. Further, there are eight CBIT projects currently under review amounting to approximately \$15.3 million in GEF resources. When approved, these projects would account for 56 percent of available set-aside resources, and \$24.2 million, or 44 percent of the GEF-7 set-aside resources, will remain available for additional projects.

68. The GEF Secretariat will continue to review and approve new CBIT project proposals in alignment with the programming directions and COP guidance, utilizing available set-aside resources.

69. Furthermore, 23 project proposals are expected to be submitted for CEO approval by the end of the 2019 fiscal year. All of these projects are supported with the CBIT Trust Fund resources. The GEF Secretariat expects to carry out the review and approval work of these projects in the 2020 fiscal year, and facilitate their early implementation. As these projects will enter the implementation period upon CEO approval, the number of countries with active capacity support for enhanced transparency is expected to increase significantly in the next fiscal year. The GEF Secretariat will continue to conduct outreach to the CBIT countries and agencies, analyze and share early lessons learned of projects supported by the CBIT Trust Fund, facilitate coordination with partners, respond to donor inquiries, and engage with the UNFCCC process and relevant meetings on transparency in the 2020 fiscal year.

70. Finally, the GEF Secretariat will be undertaking additional work to respond to new guidance from COP 24 on transparency reporting, such as initiating discussions on the provision of support for the first and subsequent biennial transparency reports, and analyzing possible options for improving the efficiency of support provision for reporting under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Close consultations with the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties are envisaged as negotiations on transparency and reporting requirements advance.

## **ANNEX I: BACKGROUND ON THE CBIT**

1. The Paris Agreement was adopted at the Twenty-First Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015. Paragraph 84 of the COP decision adopting the Paris Agreement decided to establish “a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency in order to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020” that “will support developing country Parties, upon request, in meeting enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Agreement in a timely manner.”<sup>22</sup>

2. Paragraph 86 of the COP decision urged and requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to make arrangements to support the establishment and operation of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), including through voluntary contributions to support developing countries during GEF-6 and future replenishment cycles.

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<sup>22</sup> UNFCCC, 2015, Decision 1/CP.21

**ANNEX II: LIST OF CBIT APPROVED PROJECTS**

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
9652	Costa Rica	UNEP	Costa Rica's Integrated Reporting and Transparency System	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	4-Nov-16	3-Jan-18	\$1,090,000	\$2,750,000	\$3,840,000
9673	South Africa	UNEP	Capacity Building Programme to Implement South Africa's Climate National System	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	4-Nov-16	22-Oct-18	\$1,237,350	\$2,289,065	\$3,526,415
9674	Kenya	CI	Strengthening National Institutions in Kenya to Meet the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement and Sharing Best Practices in the East Africa Region	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	9-Nov-16	20-Dec-17	\$1,144,500	\$1,100,000	\$2,244,500
9675	Global	UNEP, UNDP	CBIT Global Coordination Platform	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	4-Nov-16	3-Aug-17	\$1,095,000	\$400,000	\$1,495,000
9739	Uruguay	UNDP	Building institutional and technical capacities to enhance transparency in the framework of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	6-Mar-16	16-Feb-18	\$1,231,875	\$760,000	\$1,991,875
9814	Uganda	CI	Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Uganda to comply with the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	9-May-17	22-May-18	\$1,253,500	\$619,455	\$1,872,955
9820	Ghana	UNEP	Strengthening Ghana's National Capacity for Transparency and Ambitious Climate Reporting	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	15-May-17	19-Nov-18	\$1,237,350	\$1,310,000	\$2,547,350

<sup>23</sup> This amount includes GEF project financing, project preparation grants, and agency fees.

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
9828	Cote d'Ivoire	UNDP	Strengthening the Transparency System for Enhanced Climate Action in Côte d'Ivoire	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	26-Oct-17	3-Apr-19	\$1,303,050	\$210,000	\$1,513,050
9833	Papua New Guinea	FAO	Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use sectors for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement in Papua New Guinea	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	12-Jun-17	29-Oct-18	\$1,000,000	\$1,550,000	\$2,550,000
9834	Mongolia	FAO	Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use sectors in Mongolia for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Mongolia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	1-Jun-17	26-Nov-18	\$1,000,000	\$1,160,000	\$2,160,000
9835	Chile	UNEP	Strengthening Chile's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Transparency Framework	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	1-Jun-17	15-Mar-18	\$1,381,890	\$870,000	\$2,251,890
9837	Cambodia	FAO	Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use sectors for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Cambodia's	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	1-Jun-17	29-Oct-18	\$1,000,000	\$1,731,000	\$2,731,000



GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
			Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)							
9849	Antigua and Barbuda	UNEP	Capacity Building for Improved Transparency on Climate Actions through an Environment Registry in Antigua & Barbuda	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	9-Apr-18	N/A	\$1,149,750	\$200,000	\$1,349,750
9864	Global	FAO	Global capacity-building products towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector (CBIT-AFOLU)	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	15-Aug-18	23-Oct-18	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$5,000,000
9869	Dominican Republic	UNEP	Strengthening the capacity of the Dominican Republic to generate climate information and knowledge in the framework of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,237,350	\$360,000	\$1,597,350
9872	Peru	UNEP	Capacity Building for Peru's transparency system for climate change mitigation and adaptation	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	25-Sep-17	20-Mar-19	\$1,367,655	\$700,000	\$2,067,655
9923	Liberia	CI	Building and strengthening Liberia's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Climate Agreement	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	16-Nov-17	29-Oct-18	\$1,520,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,020,000
9925	Lebanon	UNDP	Establishing Lebanon's Transparency Framework	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	1-Nov-17	N/A	\$1,084,050	\$632,000	\$1,716,050
9942	Honduras	UNEP	Support in the design and implementation of the integrated monitoring system of climate change for Honduras	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,171,650	\$150,000	\$1,321,650

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
9948	Madagascar	CI	Building and Strengthening Madagascar's National Capacity to Implement the Transparency Elements of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	28-Mar-18	N/A	\$1,520,000	\$620,000	\$2,140,000
9955	Argentina	UNEP	Strengthening Argentina's Transparency Framework on GHG Inventories and Mitigation	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	16-Jan-18	N/A	\$2,244,531	\$350,000	\$2,594,531
9966	Bosnia-Herzegovina	UNDP	Integrated reporting and transparency system of Bosnia and Herzegovina	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	25-May-18	N/A	\$1,335,900	\$150,000	\$1,485,900
9967	Ethiopia	UNDP	Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	28-Mar-18	N/A	\$1,331,520	\$192,000	\$1,523,520
9970	Cuba	FAO	Enhancing Cuba's institutional and technical capacities in the agriculture and land-use sectors for enhanced transparency under the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	8-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,000,000	\$550,000	\$1,550,000
9986	Bangladesh	FAO	Strengthening capacity for monitoring environmental emissions under the Paris Agreement in Bangladesh	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	31-May-18	N/A	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
9997	Rwanda	CI	Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Rwanda to implement the Transparency Requirements of CBIT the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	28-Mar-18	N/A	\$1,144,500	\$600,000	\$1,744,500

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
10002	Eswatini	UNEP	Capacity Building for Enhanced Transparency in Climate Change Monitoring, Reporting and Verification	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	28-Mar-18	N/A	\$1,133,325	\$270,000	\$1,403,325
10004	Morocco	UNDP	Developing an integrated transparency framework for NDC planning and monitoring	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,675,350	\$300,000	\$1,975,350
10014	Jamaica	IADB	Strengthening Jamaica's Capacity to meet transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	21-May-18	N/A	\$1,423,500	\$159,000	\$1,582,500
10021	Montenegro	UNDP	Strengthening Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Adaptation Activities Transparency Framework	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	18-May-18	N/A	\$1,204,500	\$275,000	\$1,479,500
10023	Panama	UNEP	Development of the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$985,500	\$150,000	\$1,135,500
10025	Burkina Faso	UNEP	Capacity building for Burkina Faso's transparency system for climate change mitigation and adaptation	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,346,850	\$150,000	\$1,496,850
10026	Togo	UNEP	Togo Climate Transparency Framework	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,160,992	\$1,167,000	\$2,327,992
10027	Sierra Leone	UNEP	Building and strengthening Sierra Leone's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	8-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,526,972	\$200,000	\$1,726,972
10028	Georgia	UNEP	Georgia's Integrated Transparency Framework for Implementation of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,127,850	\$137,340	\$1,265,190

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
10029	Serbia	UNDP	Capacity Building to Enhance Transparency Framework for the Republic of Serbia under the framework of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	CEO Approved	18-May-18	11-Jan-19	\$1,204,500	\$100,000	\$1,304,500
10031	Mexico	IADB	Transparency under the Paris Agreement: National and Subnational Contribution and Tracking towards Mexico's NDC	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$2,050,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,550,000
10039	Lao PDR	UNEP	Strengthening Lao PDR's institutional capacity to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,357,800	\$150,000	\$1,507,800
10040	Sri Lanka	FAO	Enhancing and bridging knowledge gaps in Sri Lanka's NDC implementation of AFOLU sector for Enhanced Transparency Framework	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	25-May-18	N/A	\$1,000,000	\$1,796,000	\$2,796,000
10042	Macedonia	UNDP	Strengthening Institutional and Technical Macedonian Capacities to Enhance Transparency in the Framework of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	1-Mar-19	\$1,445,400	\$1,410,000	\$2,855,400
10043	Azerbaijan	UNEP	Capacity Building to meet Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	8-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,470,585	\$350,000	\$1,820,585
10071	Global	FAO	Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)	CBIT TF	PIF Approved	23-Oct-18	N/A	\$1,901,270	\$4,760,000	\$6,661,270

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Source	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount <sup>23</sup>	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
10093	Regional (Botswana, Comoros, Eritrea, Seychelles, Zambia)	CI	Regional capacity building of COMESA member states in Eastern and Southern Africa for enhanced transparency in Climate Change Monitoring, Reporting and Verification as defined in the Paris Agreement	GEF TF	Pending Council Approval	N/A	N/A	\$5,878,210	\$1,564,000	\$7,442,210
10118	Nicaragua	FAO	Strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the agricultural and forestry sectors of Nicaragua to respond to the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement	CBIT	PIF Approved	30-Oct-18	N/A	\$1,000,000	\$5,491,524	\$6,491,524
10121	Colombia	UNDP	Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision	GEF TF	Council Approved	20-Dec-18	N/A	\$4,206,497	\$1,000,000	\$5,206,497
10128	Global	UNDP, UNEP	Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement	CBIT	PIF Approved	30-Oct-18	N/A	\$2,244,750	\$400,000	\$2,644,750
10138	Armenia	UNDP	Building Armenia's national transparency framework under Paris Agreement	GEF TF	PIF Approved	17-Apr-19	N/A	\$1,084,050	\$570,000	\$1,654,050
10194	India	UNDP	Capacity-building for establishing an Integrated and Enhanced Transparency Framework for Climate actions and support measures	GEF TF	Pending Council Approval	N/A	N/A	\$4,270,500	\$1,000,000	\$5,270,500
<b>Total Projects</b>						<b>48 projects</b>		<b>\$73,779,822</b>	<b>\$46,164,423</b>	<b>\$119,944,245</b>