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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 since the Progress Report presented for the 54th GEF Council Meeting, between June 15, 2018 and November 19, 2018.¹

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 54th GEF Council in June 2018.²
3. In GEF-7, countries have access to support for CBIT and Convention obligations from 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. Country allocations are available to deliver on other enabling activities, and in general, all climate change projects are required to demonstrate alignment to national priorities included in national climate strategies and plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), National Communications (NCs), and Biennial Update Reports (BURs).
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. Many of these countries have communicated they are likely to resubmit 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.

CBIT TRUST FUND

6. The CBIT Trust Fund was established in September 2016, in accordance with the World Bank's applicable policies and procedures. The CBIT Trust Fund establishment was approved

¹ GEF, 2017, [Progress Report on Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/Inf.06.

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

by the 50th GEF Council to support the CBIT in response to the Paris Agreement and its decision. The Council also invited the World Bank to act as Trustee.³

7. At the request of the Contributing Participants, the GEF Council considered extending the sunset of the CBIT Trust Fund at its 54th meeting in June 2018. Accordingly, the Council agreed to extend the CBIT Trust Fund end contribution date and project approval date to October 31, 2018.⁴
8. As of September 30, 2018, the Trustee had received a total amount of \$61.6 million from fourteen donors: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This figure represents virtually the full pledged amount by all participating donors per their respective contribution agreements to the CBIT Trust Fund.
9. Since the last CBIT Progress Report, the CBIT Trust Fund received an additional \$5.5 million in contributions, which have been programmed to support three additional projects by the October 31, 2018 deadline, while setting aside a modest amount of resources to cover CBIT Trust Fund administrative costs.

CBIT OPERATIONALIZATION

10. As of November 19, 2018, the GEF Secretariat has approved 44 CBIT projects, all of which were approved 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 funds held in trust. The amount includes GEF project financing, project preparation grants, and Agency fees.
11. In addition, two proposals requesting CBIT resources from the GEF Trust Fund have been received to date. Both proposals are full-sized projects (FSP). One of these proposals has been included in the Work Program for consideration of the 55th GEF Council.^{5,6}
12. The total project portfolio includes 41 national projects in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Central Europe (ECA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) that are addressing priority needs to meet enhanced transparency requirements from the Paris Agreement. The portfolio includes eleven Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and five Small Island Developing States

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

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

⁵ The project is *Colombia's 2030 MRV Strategic Vision (GEF ID 10121, UNDP, GEF TF: \$4,206,497)*. It is included in the CBIT Portfolio analysis in this report.

⁶ GEF, 2018, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), Council document GEF/C.55/10.

(SIDS). It also includes four global projects that aim to improve knowledge sharing, coordination, and facilitate additional capacity-building.

13. Of the 41 projects, one is pending Council approval, 32 are PIF Approved and thus under development, while 12 have been CEO Approved and have begun implementation.

PROJECT CYCLE ANALYSIS

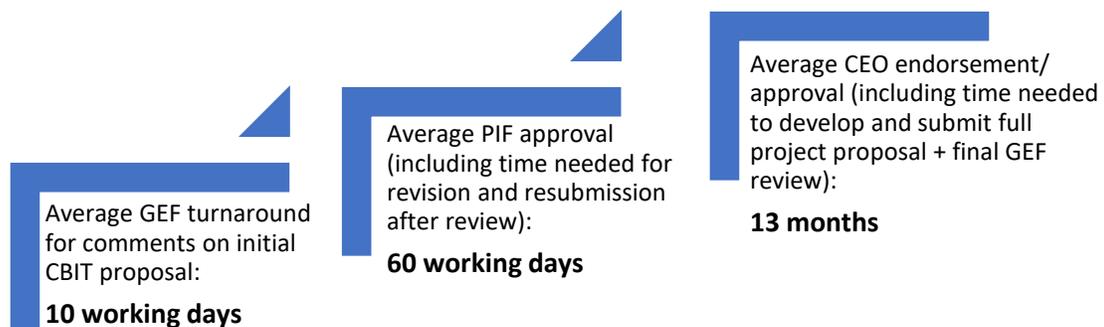
14. The GEF Secretariat conducted an analysis of the timeliness of project review, approval, and preparation of the CBIT projects. This analysis showed a high level of compliance with the GEF project cycle policy.⁷ The average amount of time for the GEF Secretariat to complete the initial project review was ten working days, meeting the current corporate standards.
15. For all 45 CBIT projects, the amount of time needed on average to receive PIF approval or CEO clearance was twelve weeks (60 working days). This period included the time necessary for countries and agencies to review and incorporate the GEF Secretariat's feedback (average of ten working days, or two weeks) into the CBIT proposals, and to resubmit to the Secretariat for final review and approval.
16. Upon project concept approval, GEF agencies have averaged 11 months to submit full CBIT project proposals for CEO endorsement review and approval. On average, an additional two months has been required for CBIT projects to move through the final review and feedback stage in order receive CEO endorsement/approval from the GEF Secretariat.⁸ All projects to date are medium-sized projects (MSPs), meeting the twelve-month time standard for MSP CEO approval submission.⁹

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

⁸ As of November 19, 2018, the list of CEO approved projects includes: Cambodia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Uganda, Uruguay, the Global CBIT Project and a Global AFOLU Project.

⁹ To describe the timeliness for each project approval stage more accurately: three low outliers were removed from the initial project review stage analysis; three outliers (two low, one high) were removed from the PIF approval analysis; and three high outliers were removed from the final CEO endorsement stage analysis. No outliers were removed from the full project submission stage.

Figure 1: CBIT Project Approval Process - Timeline on Average (as of November 19, 2018)



PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

17. The number of projects approved has increased steadily since the CBIT Trust Fund was established. Eleven projects were approved by the GEF Secretariat in fiscal year 2017 (from October 2016 to June 2017), while in fiscal year 2018 a total of 30 projects were approved. A total of 41 CBIT projects approved under GEF-6. Since the launch of the GEF-7 period, three additional CBIT projects have been approved and one project is pending Council approval.
18. Overall, the approved CBIT project proposals continue to largely mirror the eligible programming activities set forth in the *Programming Directions for the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency*.¹⁰ The most common CBIT project activities among the 41 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;
 - (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;

¹⁰ GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#), Council Document GEF/C.50/06.

- (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 November 19, 2018)



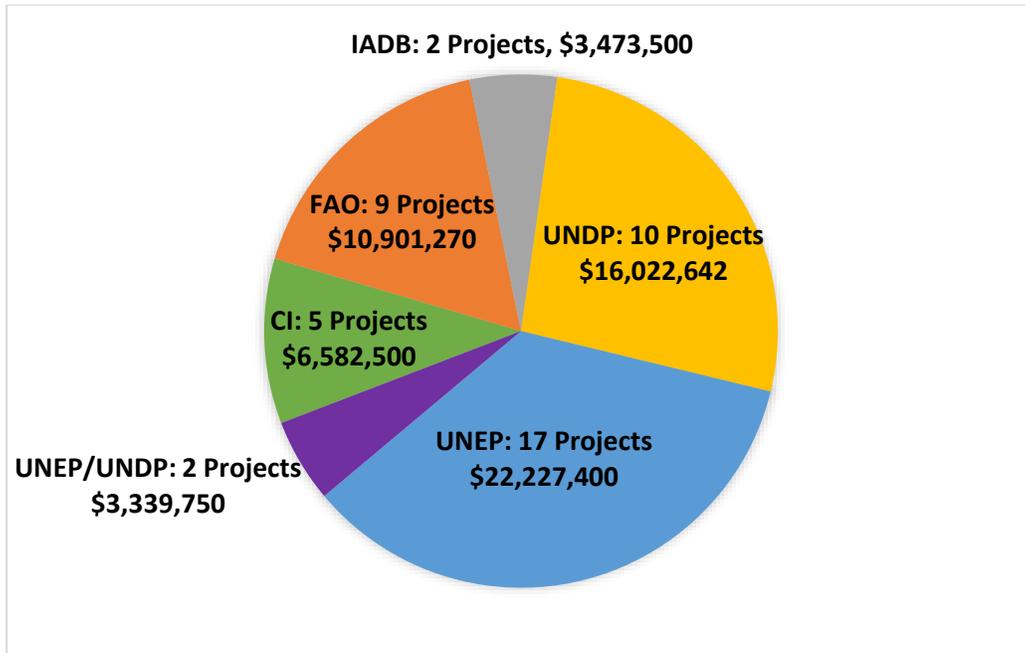
19. Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of approved CBIT projects that included a particular type of activity in their proposal, while also showing the overall proportion of project activity types as they relate to one another. The percentages in the figure represent a count of occurrences of type of activity across the portfolio and are not correlated to the amount of resources designated for specific activities.
20. Capacity building, knowledge sharing and training was the most common activity type (100 percent) included in the projects approved, whereas scenario modelling of economic and/or GHG emissions trends was the least common activity type (18 percent) included in project concepts.
21. Strong institutional arrangements are the cornerstone of every country’s GHG inventory accounting and reporting program, and this is reflected by the fact that 78 percent of all approved CBIT projects included a component focused on the establishment and/or enhancement of national institutional arrangements.

22. Similarly, as the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency framework has underlined the importance of establishing and maintaining strong MRV systems, 88 percent of approved CBIT projects requested GEF support for this type of activity.
23. In contrast, less than a third (30 percent) of CBIT projects included a project component dedicated towards the tracking and transparent reporting of support needed and received. This illustrates the higher level of interest among countries to date to address the transparency of action, and relatively modest interest among countries supported to date to focus on enhancing transparency of support.
24. While adaptation is a major focus of many developing countries' NDCs, 45 percent of CBIT proposals included a component specific to the establishment or improvement of MRV for adaptation activities.
25. Another noteworthy data point among approved CBIT projects was almost a third (30 percent) included a specific component for enhancing measurement and transparency of GHG emissions from the AFOLU sector. This is perhaps indicative of the relative importance of emissions from the AFOLU sector in the countries that have been supported by the CBIT to date, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya and Mongolia. It also reflects the inherent challenges in the sector to quantify and report emissions and removals due to limited data and the need for technical capacities for the quantification and projections of AFOLU-related emissions as compared to other sectors.

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 10 projects, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with nine, Conservation International (CI) with five, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) with two projects. In addition, UNDP and UNEP have had two joint projects approved under CBIT. The IADB is the first multilateral development bank to be involved with the CBIT.
27. Figure 3 shows the distribution of approved CBIT projects per GEF implementing agency by number of projects and associated CBIT resources.

Figure 3: CBIT Projects by Agency (as of November 19, 2018)



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 the past.

Regional Distribution

29. Overall, the CBIT Trust Fund is supporting a regionally balanced portfolio. A breakdown of approved projects by region is provided in Figure 4. The Africa and LAC regions have each had 14 projects approved to date, with cumulative totals amounting to \$18.5 million and \$21.5 million, respectively. The Asia region is next with a total of seven approved projects (\$7.4 million) while the ECA region has had six projects approved (\$7.8 million). Four CBIT projects with a global scope have been approved (\$7.2 million). The total portfolio amount to date for CBIT is \$62.5 million.

Figure 4: Approved CBIT Projects by Region (as of November 19, 2018)

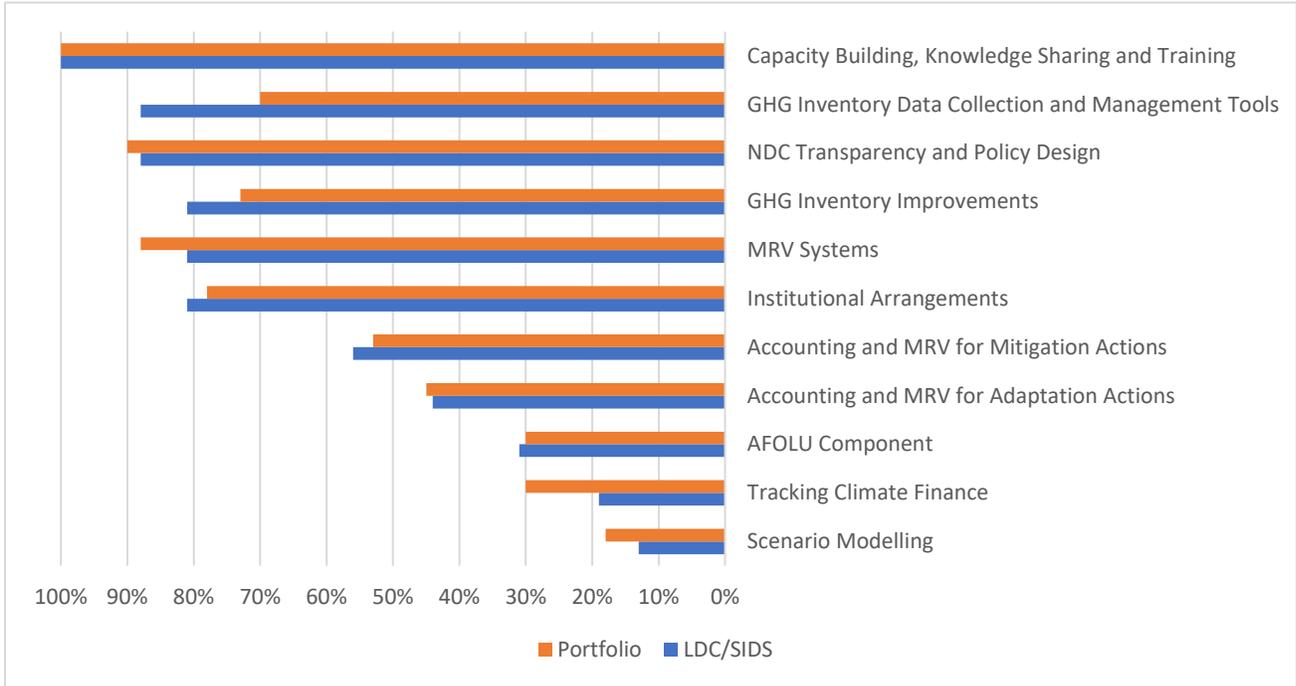


30. The CBIT *Programming Directions* document¹¹ stipulated that “proposals [would] be prioritized for those countries that are in most need of capacity-building assistance for transparency-related activities, in particular [SIDS and LDCs].” In total, 39 percent of national CBIT projects (41 total) to date are from LDCs and SIDS, responding to the above prioritization. Eleven proposals for CBIT support in LDCs have been approved, and another five proposals in SIDS have been approved.

31. The project activities proposed by LDCs and SIDS to date showed similar prioritization compared to the overall portfolio, as shown in Figure 5. However, there were some differences in the proportion of countries selecting some of the project priority categories. The largest difference was shown 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 (70 percent and 73 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 (18 percent compared to 13 percent for LDC/SIDS projects).

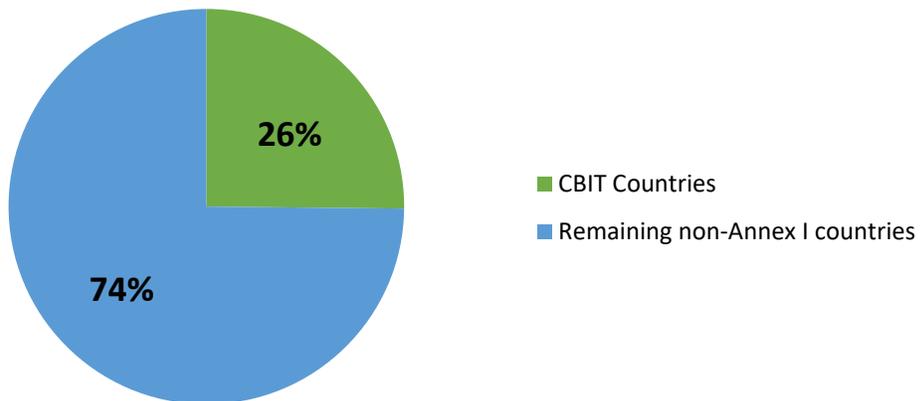
¹¹ GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

Figure 5: LDC/SIDS CBIT Project Priorities per Type of Activity Compared to Overall Portfolio (as of November 19, 2018)



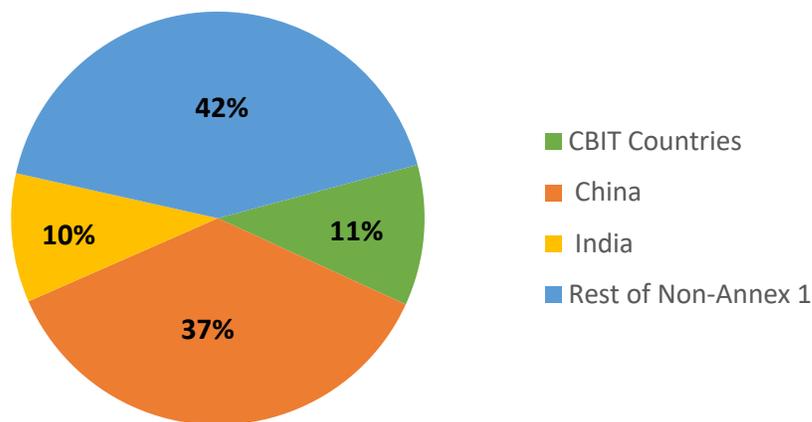
32. Figure 6 shows the proportion of non-Annex I Parties supported by CBIT through national projects. As of November 19, 2018, 41 out of 155 non-Annex-I Parties or 26 percent, have received CBIT support.

Figure 6: Share of Non-Annex I Parties Supported by Approved CBIT National Projects (as of November 19, 2018)



33. Figure 7 describes the cumulative GHG profile of countries supported through CBIT national 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 countries measured 31,730 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e), including China (11,601 MtCO₂e) and India (3,202 MtCO₂e), which together make up almost half of all Non-Annex 1 GHG emissions (47 percent).¹² In total, GHG emissions from the 41 approved CBIT countries represent approximately 11 percent of total GHG emissions from Non-Annex 1 countries, or 3,511 MtCO₂e. The rest of Non-Annex I countries represent 42 percent of total Non-Annex I GHG emissions (13,417 MtCO₂e) and 27 percent of total global GHG emissions in 2014.

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



34. Altogether, 67 countries have so far been part of the CBIT initiative, either through national 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.¹³

APPROVED CBIT PROJECTS SINCE LAST PROGRESS REPORT

35. The project concepts that have been approved or CEO cleared since June 15, 2018 include four proposals, from Colombia, Nicaragua and two global projects. Three of these proposals were MSP projects—the two global projects and Nicaragua—and were the last projects to

¹² World Resources Institute, CAIT Climate Data Explorer, 2017. Available online at: <http://cait.wri.org>

¹³ GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

be funded with resources from the CBIT Trust Fund. Information on these four projects is summarized in this section, while details on all CBIT projects can be found in Annex II of this document.

36. Pending Council approval, Colombia's project will be the first FSP to be supported under CBIT and represents the first CBIT project to be funded through the GEF Trust Fund. As part of its larger *MRV 2030 Strategic Plan*, Colombia will use CBIT support to help establish an integrated framework to estimate historical and future GHG emissions for relevant sectors in Colombia. More specifically, the project will be key to filling critical data and information gaps to produce more transparent, accurate, consistent, complete and comparable estimates of emissions and removals from Colombia's AFOLU and energy sectors, which together represent around 90 percent of Colombia's GHG emissions. These sectors also comprise key mitigation and adaptation actions for the country, such as sectoral efficiency plans, standards and ambitious low-carbon development initiatives. The project will produce the foundations of a multi-stakeholder, coordinated national MRV system to track and produce policy relevant information on Colombia's progress in implementing its NDC.
37. Nicaragua's CBIT project seeks to strengthen the technical and institutional transparency capacities in the AFOLU sector, which was responsible for 68 percent of the country's GHG emissions in 2010 (the most recent year of reported data). Specifically, the project will improve Nicaragua's institutional arrangements which will help foster the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting on enhanced emissions factors, in addition to improving adaptation and mitigation plans with higher-tier data. Newly designed methodologies and tools will help to consolidate the country's national technical capacity thereby enabling it to generate reliable, accessible and timely information for the MRV of mitigation and adaptation actions as defined in the NDC of Nicaragua, and consistent with the country's national development priorities.
38. A global project, *Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)*, by FAO aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to address transparency needs in the sector. The project seeks to support a coordinated global and national forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination process, to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and contribute towards country efforts to track progress made in implementing and achieving NDCs. To ensure the widest impact possible, the project will target an existing global network of National Correspondents for the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020) from at least 170 countries and territories. In addition, the CBIT Global Coordination Platform will be used as a key knowledge delivery mechanism, furthering the reach and sustainability of the project's objective to build global transparency capacity in the forest sector.
39. A joint global project from UNDP and UNEP, titled Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II A: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article

13 of the Paris Agreement, was also approved. The intention of the proposed project is to ensure that CBIT countries are supported by a unified and sustainable platform. More specifically, the project will focus on combining the efforts of the GEF-funded, UNDP/UNEP Global Support Program (GSP) and the CBIT Global Coordination Platform to become a “one-stop shop” for information related to MRV and transparency under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The project will merge the existing web platforms related to each global initiative and maintain the core services provided under those platforms, while expanding the resources and learning materials available through the development of new guidance publications and training modules.

UPDATES FROM CBIT PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

40. Since the last Progress Report, five countries have received CEO Approval after the submission and review of their full project proposals. These countries include: Cambodia, Ghana, Liberia, Papua New Guinea and South Africa.
41. In addition, one global project focused on capacity-building in the AFOLU sector received CEO Approval since June 2018. This brings the total number of CBIT projects that are CEO Approved to 12.
42. All ten 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 4.¹⁴ 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 November 19, 2018)

<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>Ghana</i>	2	4
<i>Kenya</i>	3	4
<i>Liberia</i>	2	4
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	2	3
<i>South Africa</i>	2	4
<i>Uganda</i>	2	4
<i>Uruguay</i>	2	3

¹⁴ For further guidance on these indicators and the CBIT Results Framework, see GEF, 2016, [Programming Directions for the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency](#).

43. 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.

Table 2: Qualitative Assessment of MRV Systems of CEO Endorsed/Approved CBIT Projects (as of November 19, 2018)

<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>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>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>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
	Only mitigation measures' implementation progress monitored and reported in BUR 1. Adaptation measures included in Sectoral Adaptation Plans to be monitored	3	6

<i>Country</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Baseline Rating</i>	<i>Target Rating</i>
	and evaluated through indicators established in the same. No verification.		

44. As these ten projects have only recently been fully approved, project activities are still in the early stages of implementation and thus have not gone through the required monitoring and evaluation process to assess results. Through ongoing interaction with countries, however, the GEF Secretariat has gathered anecdotes 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.

COUNTRY CASE STUDIES FROM LATIN AMERICA

Chile

45. Chile has been a leader among countries in the development of GHG inventories and MRV processes for many years. For example, in December 2014, Chile was the fourth country in the world to submit a BUR and was also one of the first nations to voluntarily submit its BUR to the International Consultation and Analysis (ICA) process. Since then, Chile has submitted a second BUR (in 2016), is currently developing a third and is also in the process of completing its fourth NC.

46. Despite this progress, however, Chile recognizes GHG inventories alone are not sufficient to assess and report on the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation actions that comprise a country's NDC. Whilst national GHG inventories are critical to the enhanced transparency process, Chile's CBIT project will help the country heighten its capacity to carry out more integrated long-term projections and scenario analyses of different policies. By doing so, Chile will be able to improve its long-term climate strategy—and thus its NDC—by incorporating a more systematic and regular process for establishing and reviewing mitigation targets and other climate goals that align with the enhanced transparency framework.

47. Chile's CBIT project is already being implemented and includes activities such as specific trainings for staff to enable them to carry out more long-term sectoral GHG projections so the country can establish intermediate goals and carbon budgets for the specific purpose of updating its NDC in a manner that meets the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement.

48. Chile's CBIT project also includes an adaptation component that will pilot the development of metrics to help the country track progress for one of its nine sectoral adaptation plans. Chile intends to then replicate and apply the results of the pilot to other sectors, while also

developing guidance that subsequently could be shared via the CBIT Global Coordination Platform and used, both regionally and globally.

Costa Rica

49. Costa Rica's commitment as an environmentally-minded country pre-dates the Paris Agreement. In 2008, for example, the Central American country stated its intention to become a carbon neutral economy by 2021. Costa Rica's ambitious climate pledge was later reaffirmed in its NDC which highlights its intention to remain carbon neutral through 2085.
50. In order to achieve such an ambitious target, Costa Rica has entrenched climate change in its National Development Plan and is currently deploying climate-friendly policies across its entire economy such as using renewable energy to meet 100 percent of its electricity demand, improvement of agricultural and waste management practices, and electrification of transportation.
51. For Costa Rica, CBIT support goes well beyond improving its ability to report on its GHG emissions and meeting the Paris Agreement's enhanced transparency requirements. Due to the scale of its climate commitments, Costa Rica must implement an integrated planning process that considers the dynamic interaction and impacts of different sectoral policies. Therefore, the availability and flow of accurate and transparent information is fundamental for the country's policy makers to produce informed political and economic decisions that will lead to the achievement of its climate goals.
52. Costa Rica's CBIT project was designed to create value for its national ministries by improving access to and sharing of information for planning processes, while also fostering an open knowledge environment so the private sector, civil society and those outside of the country better understand what the government is doing about climate change.
53. The project will ultimately produce an integrated reporting and transparency system that will help the country MRV the mitigation and adaptation actions it takes, while also improving its ability to generate multi-sectoral forecasting scenarios for policymakers.
54. The foundation for Costa Rica's enhanced national transparency system is the National System for Climate Change Metrics (SINAMECC). It serves as the overarching platform for transparency and accountability of Costa Rica's NDC, and provides timely information on mitigation, adaptation, climate finance and co-benefits. By design, SINAMECC feeds on relevant data, including top-down data generated through GHG inventories as well as bottom-up sectoral MRV information.
55. SINAMECC has also been built as an open source platform, which means that other countries can utilize it and customize to their national circumstances. Sharing its experiences and knowledge with data-driven policy making efforts supported by CBIT are of high interest to Costa Rica and is consistent with the country's ambition to become a global

laboratory for decarbonizing national economies and attracting private finance for climate-smart growth.

Uruguay

56. Uruguay's CBIT project reflects the country's commitment to transparent reporting of its GHG emissions to the UNFCCC; the country has submitted four NCs and two BURs to date. However, Uruguay's CBIT project is also very important for domestic reasons as it has allowed the country to build upon and carry momentum forward from an inter-institutional process originally initiated for the elaboration of its National Climate Change Policy, and subsequently its NDC in 2017. Indeed, for Uruguay CBIT support has been extremely timely as the relevant ministries and institutions it needs to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement are already engaged and sensitized to climate issues.
57. The country is utilizing CBIT support to develop a system to improve GHG accounting methodologies and indicators used to monitor implementation of the mitigation and adaptation measures components of its NDC in an effective, consistent and reliable manner. Uruguay's project will support the work of its MRV task force group, which was created in the framework of the *National Response System to Climate Change and Variability*. Currently, the group is studying various indicators to evaluate progress, potential impacts, existing financial resources for mitigation and adaptation measures, while also identifying gaps in financial resources or in technical capacities needed to implement NDC measures.
58. In addition, although Uruguay has identified options for adaptation measures in the past through studies on vulnerability, precipitation, and temperature increases, the country's CBIT project is expected to expand and deepen the indicators used for tracking implementation of adaptation measures as well as the level of support needed for enhanced ambition in this area.

LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE CBIT SUPPORT

59. Based on a review of CBIT project proposals, the following key lessons have been identified, which may be useful to inform countries and agencies in the development of future CBIT project proposals:
- (a) Provide specificity and detail for individual project components to help demonstrate the robustness of the project's overall design;
 - (b) Demonstrate clearly how CBIT support will be incremental to planned or ongoing GHG and other relevant capacity building activities. Describe in detail the landscape of existing transparency capacity and opportunities for coordination and cooperation between existing projects and the proposed CBIT activities;
 - (c) Highlight linkages of the proposed project components to the country's NDC commitments and the enhanced transparency framework requirements;

- (d) Utilize and reference sources that have helped the country identify gaps and barriers in meeting the enhanced transparency requirements (e.g. ICA process, national capacity assessments, etc.); and
- (e) Demonstrate the chosen implementing agency's comparative advantage to help implement the activities proposed, including in terms of relative expertise of topics and coordination with existing support or programs in the country.

COORDINATION

60. 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.
61. Coordination activities have also included relevant bilateral agencies, national institutions, international organizations, UNFCCC bodies and workstreams, including the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), among others.
62. Through various meetings, including the CBIT Coordination Meeting ahead of the Second Annual CBIT Technical Workshop, both of which took place in April 2018 in Berlin, Germany, the GEF Secretariat and existing initiatives have shared ongoing and planned activities, particularly as it involves ongoing activities at the country and regional level, to enhance coordination where possible.

GLOBAL COORDINATION PLATFORM

63. The CBIT Global Coordination Platform was officially launched in April 2018, and is an open web-based platform.¹⁵ It aims to bring 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.
64. 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.

¹⁵ <https://www.cbitplatform.org/>

65. 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.

AWARENESS RAISING AND OUTREACH

66. The GEF Secretariat will participate in UNFCCC COP 24 from December 2 to 14, 2018, in Katowice, Poland. The GEF will participate in formal and informal negotiations around the transparency agenda, engage in bilateral discussions with current and prospective CBIT countries, and will report on the progress of the CBIT.

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

- (a) The GEF Report to the COP, which was published on the GEF website¹⁶ on September 7, 2018 and the UNFCCC website¹⁷ on September 19, 2018, included information on the implementation of the CBIT during the 2018 fiscal year.
- (b) The CBIT webpage has been updated, including links to approved project documents.¹⁸
- (c) The GEF Secretariat has committed to engage in a number of events on transparency to take place at COP 24, such as side events and briefings organized by partner initiatives.
- (d) The GEF Secretariat also updated its CBIT bifold publication in November 2018 for COP 24.¹⁹ The publication includes a summary of CBIT programming to date, including key areas of support. It is available in print and online.

CBIT OUTLOOK

68. At COP 24 in Katowice, Poland, Parties are expected to further negotiations on transparency. The GEF Secretariat will follow its outcomes to address relevant decisions and changes as they pertain to the CBIT's work.

69. The GEF Secretariat will continue to review and approve new CBIT project proposals into 2019 and beyond, utilizing available set-aside resources.

70. In addition to new project concepts being submitted for consideration, the GEF expects to receive approximately 26 project proposals by the end of 2019 for CEO Approval (from the countries that received PIF approval of their project concepts in fiscal year 2018).

¹⁶ GEF, 2018, *Report of the GEF to the 24th session of the COP to UNFCCC*.

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/6e.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit>

¹⁹ <https://www.thegef.org/publications/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit-0>

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.”
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.

ANNEX II: PROJECTS APPROVED AND RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE CBIT TRUST FUND

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Title	Project Status	PIF Approval	CEO Approval	Total GEF Amount	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
9652	Costa Rica	UNEP	Costa Rica's Integrated Reporting and Transparency System	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	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	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	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	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	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	CEO Approved	15-May-17	19-Nov-18	\$1,237,350	\$1,310,000	\$2,547,350
9828	Cote d'Ivoire	UNDP	Strengthening the Transparency System for Enhanced Climate Action in Côte d'Ivoire	PIF Approved	26-Oct-17	N/A	\$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	CEO Approved	12-Jun-17	29-Oct-18	\$1,000,000	\$1,550,000	\$2,550,000

			Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement in Papua New Guinea						
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	PIF Approved	1-Jun-17	N/A	\$1,000,000	\$1,160,000	\$2,160,000
9835	Chile	UNEP	Strengthening Chile's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Transparency Framework	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 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	CEO Approved	1-Jun-17	29-Oct-18	\$1,000,000	\$1,731,000	\$2,731,000
9849	Antigua and Barbuda	UNEP	Capacity Building for Improved Transparency on Climate Actions through an Environment Registry in Antigua & Barbuda	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)	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	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	PIF Approved	25-Sep-17	N/A	\$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	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	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	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,171,650	\$150,000	\$1,321,650
9948	Madagascar	CI	Building and Strengthening Madagascar's National Capacity to Implement the Transparency Elements of the Paris Agreement	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	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	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	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.	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	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	PIF Approved	28-Mar-18	N/A	\$1,144,500	\$600,000	\$1,744,500

			the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement						
10002	Eswatini (Swaziland)	UNEP	Capacity Building for Enhanced Transparency in Climate Change Monitoring, Reporting and Verification	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	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	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	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	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	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,346,850	\$150,000	\$1,496,850
10026	Togo	UNEP	Togo Climate Transparency Framework	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	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	PIF Approved	6-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,127,850	\$137,340	\$1,265,190

10029	Serbia	UNDP	Capacity Building to Enhance Transparency Framework for the Republic of Serbia under the framework of the Paris Agreement	PIF Approved	18-May-18	N/A	\$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	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	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	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	PIF Approved	5-Jun-18	N/A	\$1,445,400	\$1,410,000	\$2,855,400
10043	Azerbaijan	UNEP	Capacity Building to meet Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	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)	PIF Approved	23-Oct-18	N/A	\$1,901,270	\$4,760,000	\$6,661,270
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.	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	Pending Council Approval	N/A	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	PIF Approved	30-Oct-18	N/A	\$2,244,750	\$400,000	\$2,644,750
Total Projects						45 projects	\$62,547,062	\$43,469,833	\$106,016,895