



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY

**Enhancing transparency of climate action at the national level and support provided to facilitate action is an integral part of the Paris Climate Agreement, as defined in its Article 13 (see box on page 2).**

The Paris Agreement, which entered into force in November 2016, is based on country-led commitments for global action. Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are to be updated every five years as part of the global stocktake to inform where we stand vis-à-vis the goal of keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and aim to limit it further to 1.5°C.

In order to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to establish a Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). The GEF was requested to support the establishment and operation of the CBIT, including through voluntary contributions to support developing countries during GEF-6 (2014-2018) and future replenishment cycles.

In June 2016, the GEF Council approved the CBIT strategy and established a trust fund to support its implementation. Many donors pledged over \$55 million to the new CBIT Trust Fund. The CBIT was officially launched, with approval of the first set of national projects at COP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2016, a mere eleven months after Parties requested the GEF to establish the initiative.

During GEF-7 (2018-2022), the CBIT will be an integral part of GEF's climate change support.



Photo credit: International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

## The CBIT has three aims:

- 1** Strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities in line with national priorities
- 2** Provide relevant tools, training and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13 of the Agreement
- 3** Assist in the improvement of transparency over time

## ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AND SUPPORT

As part of the Paris Agreement, all countries agreed to an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, with built-in flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities.

- **Transparency of action** refers to a clear understanding of the progress in implementing nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Under this framework, each Party has to regularly provide information to track progress of the implementation of its NDC, national greenhouse gas inventory reports, as well as information related to climate change impacts and adaptation.
- **Transparency of support** refers to clarity on support provided and received for mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. Under this framework, developed countries should provide information on the support they have provided; meanwhile, developing countries should provide information on support needed and received.

In terms of **flexibility**, this enhanced transparency framework will recognize the special circumstances of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), who may submit this information at their discretion.

It will **build on** existing transparency arrangements, drawing on the experience of National Communications, Biennial Reports, Biennial Update Reports, international assessment and review, and international consultation and analysis.

## CBIT Support in GEF-6

- Timely establishment of the CBIT Trust Fund to receive voluntary contributions and support projects during last two years of GEF-6
- \$56 million in funds pledged to the CBIT Trust Fund as of October 2017
- 15 projects supported by approximately \$18 million of CBIT grant resources as of October 2017
- 13 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean supported in addressing priority needs to meet enhanced transparency requirements, including 2 LDCs and 1 SIDS
- 2 global projects to facilitate coordination, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building
- Countries have agencies of their choice. As of October 2017, four agencies involved included CI, FAO, UNDP and UN Environment

### ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSPARENCY

- Many CBIT projects have components focused on establishing efficient and well-articulated institutional arrangements for transparency-related activities.
- For example, in Uruguay the project aims to support the establishment of a National Transparency Task Force, a capacity-building needs and gaps assessment of the institutional enabling environment, a capacity-building program for the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment (MVOTMA), and a knowledge-sharing information system.
- In Ghana, the CBIT project plans to help establish a centralized national infrastructure for improved data access and information management, including a data-sharing network, templates, and guidance notes for NDC sectors and a verification manual.

### STRENGTHENING NATIONAL MRV SYSTEMS

- Countries are also using CBIT resources to address specific technical gaps in their domestic measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems.
- In South Africa, the CBIT project seeks to fast-track the operationalization of a new climate change monitoring and evaluation system, and enhance the capacity of the Department of Environmental Affairs to provide guidance on transparency-related work to relevant entities. It will also address high personnel turnover by linking to education programs in the national universities and research centers.
- In Peru, the project aims to strengthen its GHG emissions tracking system, Infocarbono, and develop a system to monitor and evaluate adaptation actions, starting with the health sector.

### INFORMING POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING

- Enhanced transparency can help countries make more informed decisions and develop data-driven policy.
- Chile's project plans to support the integration of climate data and analysis into policy-making and international reporting through the establishment of a centralized national climate information platform, with associated training, guidelines and tools.
- In Kenya, the project seeks to support the implementation of the System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) and integration of data into national policy and decision-making, including its Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) Strategy.

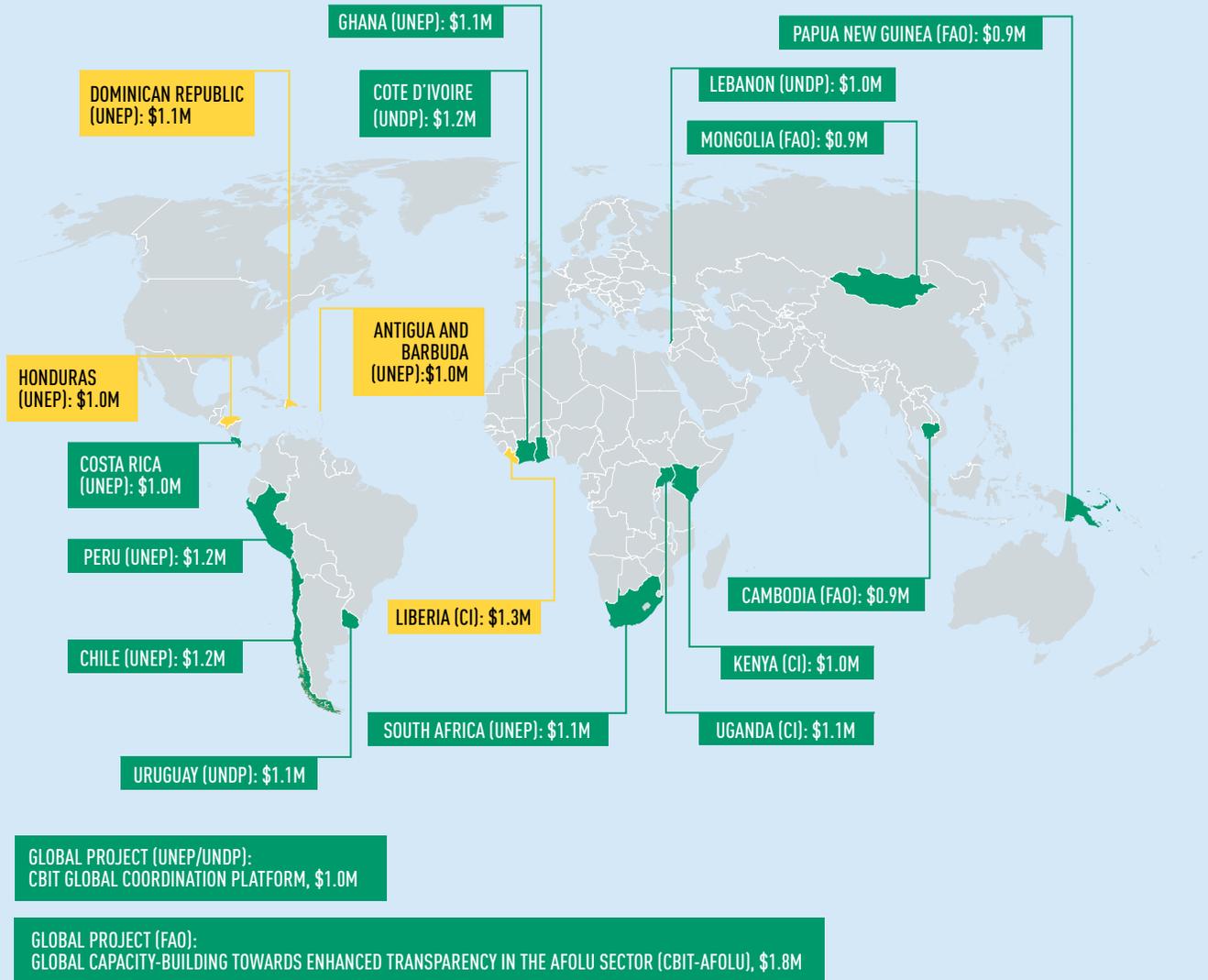
### TRANSPARENCY IN THE AFOLU SECTOR

- In many developing countries, the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU) sector is responsible for over half of total emissions, but there are challenges to quantify and report emissions and removals due to unavailable or outdated data, low technical capacities, and weak institutional arrangements.
- The Global Capacity-building Towards Enhanced Transparency in the AFOLU Sector project aims to help developing countries establish national institutional arrangements and enhance technical capacities in AFOLU, including GHG inventories, domestic MRV systems and tracking of NDCs.
- National projects in Cambodia, Kenya, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Uganda plan to focus on strengthening transparency in their AFOLU sector.

### GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- The CBIT Global Coordination Platform seeks to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and share knowledge and lessons learned among developing countries.

# CBIT Projects



In addition to the GEF implementing agencies involved in CBIT projects, the GEF is coordinating with initiatives and entities engaged in transparency and related activities including the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the Coalition on Paris Agreement Capacity Building, the International Partnership for Transparency in the Paris Agreement, and the NDC Partnership, as well as with relevant 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.

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