The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) supports developing countries to build institutional and technical capacity to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The CBIT plays a key role to assist countries with tools and training as they prepare their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), due by December 2024.
Summary of CBIT Support

72 countries as of June 30, 2021

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 Paris Agreement
3. Assist in the improvement of transparency over time

Country-Led Projects for Enhanced Transparency of 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. CBIT projects build on existing transparency arrangements, as well as on country efforts to develop National Communications, Biennial Update Reports, and other international greenhouse gas (GHG) assessment and review processes. To date, the most common CBIT project priorities, among 74 projects supporting 72 countries, include:

- Technical capacity for tracking mitigation: 99%
- Technical capacity for national inventory: 90%
- Institutional arrangements for tracking mitigation: 85%
- Institutional arrangements for national inventory: 71%
- Technical capacity for tracking adaptation: 71%
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) enhancement and policy design: 66%
- Institutional arrangements for tracking adaptation: 59%
- Technical capacity for tracking support: 51%
- Institutional arrangements for tracking support: 34%
- Scenario modeling: 26%
CBIT Support

72 countries supported, including 24 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 13 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

54 projects have begun implementation

47% of non-Annex I Parties supported to date representing 71% of total non-Annex I GHG emissions

5 global projects aim to improve knowledge sharing, coordination and facilitate additional capacity-building

Countries have GEF implementing agencies of their choice. To date, 6 agencies are involved: CI, FAO, Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China (FECO), IDB, UNEP and UNDP

CBIT Support by Region

Early Program Observations and Findings

Many CBIT-supported countries have provided information and insights about the significant progress they are making to advance the enhanced transparency agenda at the national level, and how their progress is leading to domestic benefits in the form of:

- New policy tools;
- Improved inter and intra-agency coordination and consolidation of efforts;
- Enhanced trust supporting the implementation of NDCs, both on the national front and with the international community; and
- Improved understanding of how current resources are being utilized and remaining gaps.

MUCH LIKE THE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES, CAPACITY-BUILDING PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED IN CBIT COUNTRY PROJECTS VARY GREATLY.

Enhancing Institutional Arrangements

- Strong institutional arrangements are the cornerstone of every country’s transparency system. Of the approved CBIT projects, 71 percent and 85 percent, respectively, include a component focused on improving institutional arrangements for GHG inventories and for tracking mitigation progress.

- Papua New Guinea (PNG) established the Provincial Climate Change Committee (PCCC) in 2015 across 22 provinces to help institutionalize climate change. Building on this, the CBIT project is establishing four transparency regional focal points responsible for coordinating transparency activities at the provincial level in close collaboration with their key climate change authority, the Climate Change Development Authority. The selected focal points will be members of the existing PCCC and help strengthen and incorporate transparency efforts at the provincial level in PNG.

Strengthening National Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems

- CBIT countries are using GEF support to address specific technical gaps in their domestic MRV systems — 90 percent for GHG inventories, 99 percent for tracking mitigation progress, and 71 percent for tracking adaptation progress.

- Recognizing the important role of local self-governments in reporting and tracking of mitigation actions and measures, the CBIT project in Serbia is supporting the development of a Climate Smart Information System for local self-governments that will cover mitigation-relevant sectors such as transport, energy, and waste, providing a centralized way to collect and store data. This tool will be linked to a comprehensive national MRV tool.
INFORMING NDC ENHANCEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

- Enhanced transparency can help countries make more informed decisions and develop data-driven policy options, especially as they relate to future NDC commitments. CBIT projects, about 66 percent of them, include components addressing NDC enhancement and policy design.

- Chile’s CBIT project is generating medium- and long-term projection scenarios, both at national and sectoral levels, by working collaboratively across various ministries. The project has played an active role in the updating of the Chilean NDC and analyzing the technical and economic feasibility of GHG neutrality by 2050, included in the Framework Law on Climate Change. The National Prospective System aims to strengthen the national institutional capacities for long- and short-term GHG forecasting capacities and will play a critical role for permanent monitoring of the NDC and updating future NDCs.

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY IN THE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND OTHER LAND USE (AFOLU) SECTOR

- In many developing countries, the AFOLU sector is often responsible for over half of total GHG emissions. However, the sector also presents distinctive challenges in the quantification of GHG emissions and removals, due to inadequate systems and tools to measure, collect, and monitor data; weak institutional arrangements; and insufficient human resources. About 37 percent of CBIT projects include an AFOLU component as part of their transparency efforts.

- Mongolia is developing a measurement and reporting framework for adaptation by identifying a total of 63 key indicators in four AFOLU sectors based on existing national monitoring and evaluation systems, and developing guidelines for establishing meta data parameters. For assessment of the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, the project is using the Collect Earth tool that improves the quality of the assessment by providing high resolution satellite imagery.

- Two global CBIT projects, CBIT-Forest and CBIT-AFOLU, address critical data collection and reporting challenges related to these sectors. CBIT Forest aims to build institutional arrangements and technical capacities on forest-related data collection, analysis, and dissemination processes to enable developing countries to meet Article 13 requirements. The project aims to enhance national forest monitoring system (NFMS) of countries to enable them to better track progress towards achieving a country’s NDC and has identified pilot countries for implementation.

- CBIT-AFOLU aims at strengthening institutional arrangements and technical capacities to establish systems for MRV and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in the agriculture and land-use sectors, and serves as an umbrella program for national projects addressing specific challenges such as data unavailability, weak institutional arrangements, and low levels of methodological sophistication and technical capacity in the AFOLU sector. Both projects have created knowledge and best practice-sharing opportunities including virtual exchanges and online training tools to expand their global reach.

GLOBAL COORDINATION PLATFORM

- The CBIT Global Coordination Platform is a web-based platform that aims to bring together practitioners from countries and agencies in an effort to foster coordination of transparency actions and needs, share lessons learned through regional and global meetings, and facilitate access to existing and emerging guidance on climate transparency.

- The platform contains CBIT project profiles for each country, includes interviews with country implementers, links to GHG methodological guidance, and houses presentations and other meeting materials from CBIT workshops and other fora.

FACILITATING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

- The GEF coordinates with other important transparency initiatives to help implement the CBIT. Partners include: the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT), the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA), the NDC Partnership, the Partnership to Strengthen Transparency for CoInnovation (PaSTI), and others.

ABOUT THE GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established 30 years ago on the eve of the Rio Earth Summit to tackle our planet’s most pressing environmental problems. Since then, it has provided more than $21.5 billion in grants and mobilized an additional $117 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 projects and programs. The GEF is the largest multilateral trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature, and supports the implementation of major international environmental conventions including on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals, and desertification. It brings together 184 member governments in addition to civil society, international organizations, and private sector partners. Through its Small Grants Programme, the GEF has provided support to more than 25,000 civil society and community initiatives in 135 countries.

For more information about the CBIT, visit: http://www.thegef.org/topics/cbit
For more information about the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, visit: https://www.cbitplatform.org/