

Third Informal Consultation on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)

24 February 2022



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Perspectives on modalities for enhanced BTR1 support

COP26 Guidance to the GEF

Decision -/CMA.3

Guidance to the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,

3. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Global Environment Facility to provide support to developing country Parties in accordance with Article 13, paragraphs 14–15, of the Paris Agreement for preparing their biennial transparency reports and building their institutional and technical capacity for the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement;
8. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider combining the application processes for support for producing biennial transparency reports, including by considering raising the funding ceiling of expedited enabling activity projects, and for Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency projects, as appropriate, and by developing an expedited process for projects related to preparing biennial transparency reports;
9. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility, Parties and implementing agencies to work collaboratively to ensure that financing for national inventory reports and biennial transparency reports is delivered in a timely manner, including through utilizing the bundled application modality and expedited procedures for enabling activities, and requests the Global Environment Facility to monitor the timeliness of project review, approval and preparation, including disaggregated tracking of each phase of project development (from project identification form approval to submission of chief executive officer approval request and disbursement through implementing agencies) and report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its fourth session on the actions taken to implement the guidance contained in this paragraph;
10. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider raising the funding ceiling for expedited enabling activities.

Status of BTR1 support (as of February 24, 2022)

- 12 BTRs supported through GEF-7
- 11 countries with approved GEF support for BTR1
 - 5 have requested stand-alone BTR1
 - 6 have requested BTR1/NC
- 8 countries supported through umbrella
- 2 countries used their **STAR allocation**
- It has taken an average of **2.5** months between submission by Implementing Agency and GEF approval of BTR projects

Countries that have received support from GEF to prepare their BTR1

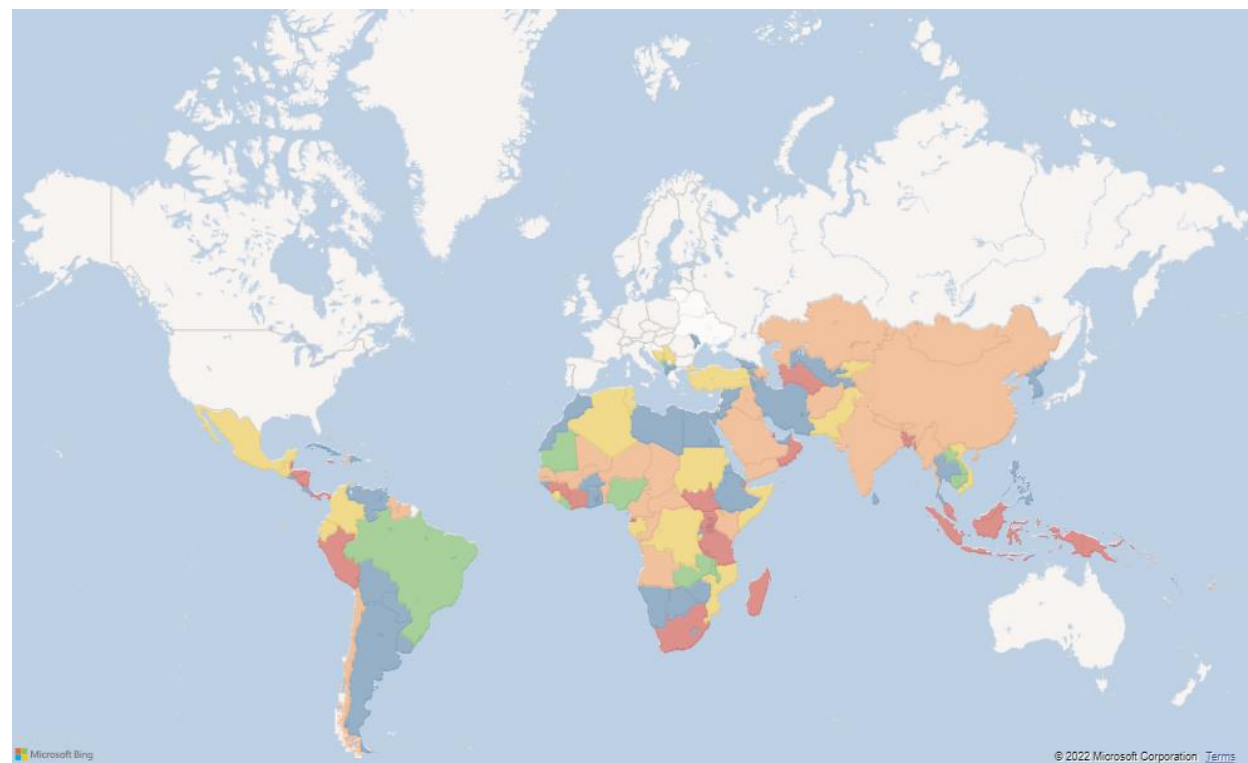


Modality 1 – Stand-alone BTR

- Countries can request BTR support as single country EA projects. This modality follows the standard GEF EA project cycle policies and guidelines.
- Available to countries upon submission of their last GEF-supported BUR. Encouraged for countries that submit last supported NC *after* December 2021.
- Available from January 2021 to January 2023 for first BTR (SIDS and LDCs can use this modality for their first BTR beyond the January 2023 timeline)

Estimation of BTR1 requests based on BUR submission to UNFCCC

| Category | SIDS/LDCs | Non-SIDS/LDCs | Total |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Category 1 | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Category 2 | 20 | 36 | 56 |
| Category 3 | 10 | 14 | 24 |
| Category 4 | 24 | 12 | 36 |
| Category 5 | 14 | 13 | 27 |
| Total | 76 | 78 | 154 |



- Category 1 Country has already requested support for BTR1 from GEF
- Category 2 Country doesn't have an ongoing BUR
- Category 3 Country is expected to submit its ongoing BUR before June 2022
- Category 4 Country is expected to submit its ongoing BUR between June and Dec 2022
- Category 5 Country is expected to submit its ongoing BUR after December 2022

Modality 2 – Combined BTR/NC

- Countries can request combined support for BTR and NC as single country EA projects. This modality follows the standard GEF EA project cycle policies and guidelines.
- Available to countries upon submission of their last GEF-supported NC. Encouraged for countries that submitted their last supported NC *prior to* December 2021.
- Available January 2021-June 2022 for first BTR (SIDS and LDCs can use this modality for their first BTR beyond the proposed timeline)
- For countries with an ongoing BUR, this modality would be eligible as long as the BUR has an expected submission date prior to the targeted BTR/NC submission date.

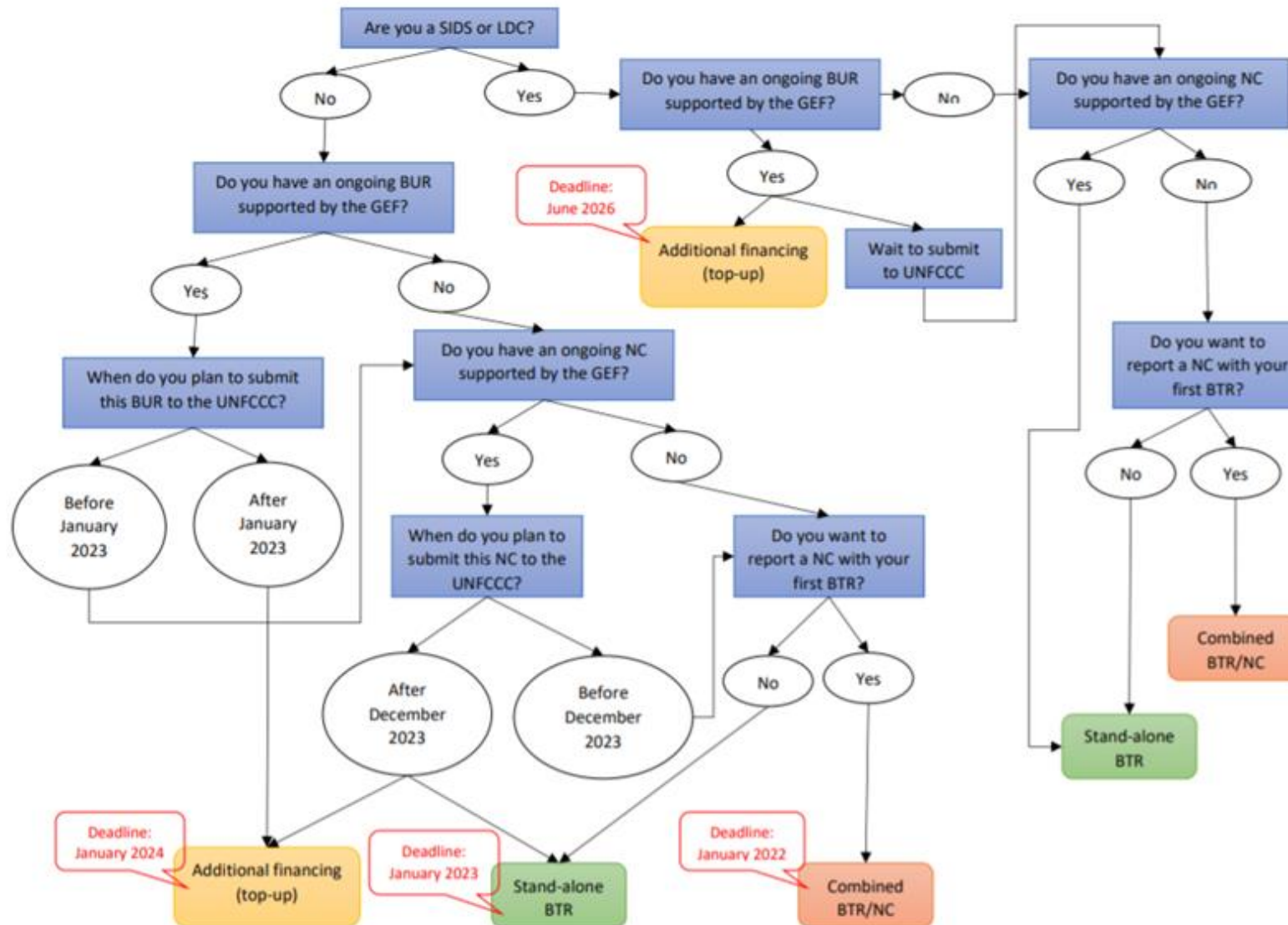
Modality 3 – Additional Financing (top-up)

- Countries can request additional financing as a stand-alone EA, parallel to an ongoing EA support approved previously, to provide additional financing (top-up) for ongoing BUR and NC projects to also prepare their BTR.
- This modality also follows the standard EA project policies and guidelines.
- Only for countries that will not submit their ongoing BUR or NC in time to request stand-alone first BTR or first BTR/NC support and thus require transitional support.
- Available from January 2023 to January 2024.
- Assessed on a case-by-case basis, as it depends on status and actual submission of approved EAs.
- Proposed up to \$200,000 in financing.

Summary of agreed modalities for BTR support

| Stand-alone BTR | Combined BTR/NC | Additional financing (top-up) |
|--|---|--|
| Up to \$484,000 set-aside funding | Up to \$517,000 set-aside funding | Up to \$200,000 set-aside funding |
| Available: January 2021 (GEF-7) | Available: January 2021 (GEF-7) | Available: January 2023 (GEF-8) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not have ongoing BUR support • Ongoing NC is acceptable • Encouraged for countries that submit last supported NC <i>after</i> December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not have ongoing NC support • Ongoing BUR is acceptable (provided it will be submitted prior to the submission of the BTR/NC) • Encouraged for countries that submit last supported NC <i>prior</i> to December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have ongoing NC with expected submission date in 2024 and/or ongoing BUR with expected submission date after January 2023 |
| Deadline for submitting request: January 2023 (not applicable to LDC/SIDS) | Deadline for submitting request: June 2022 (not applicable to LDC/SIDS) | Deadline for submitting request: January 2024 |

Decision tree for choosing modality for first BTR support



Available at:
https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/events/GEF_Second_Informal_Consultation_BTR_Decision_Tree.pdf

Observed timeline for Biennial Update Reports (BURs)

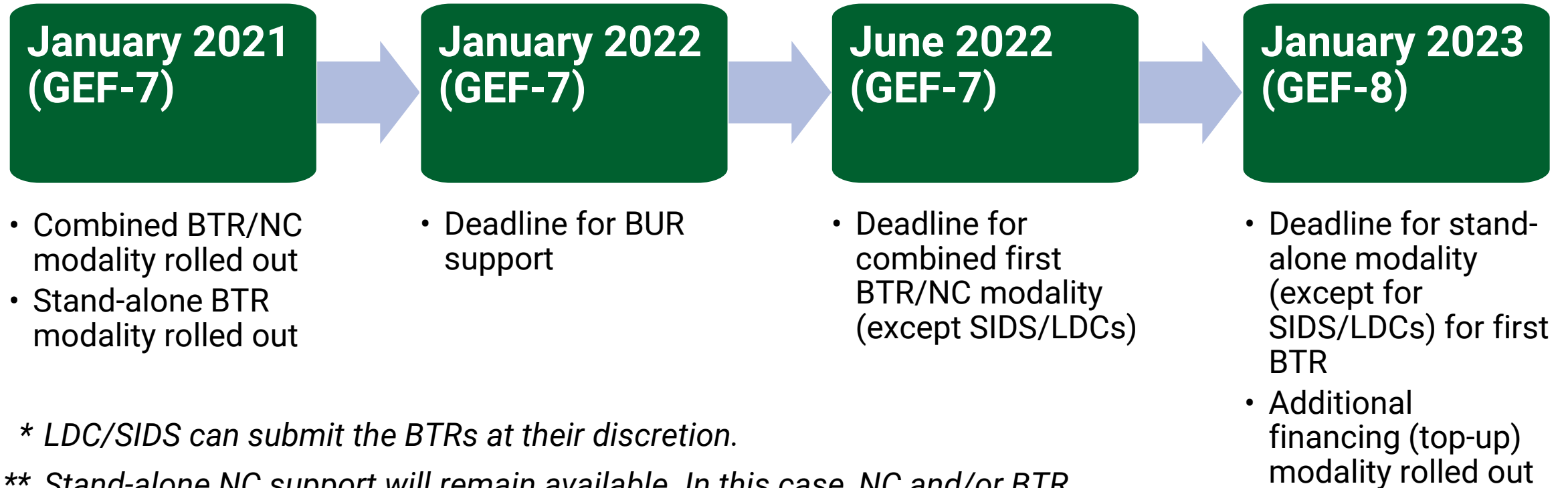


There is an overall improvement in the timeline from one BUR cycle to the next one

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| First BUR | 36 months |
| Second BUR | 34 months |
| Third BUR | 26 months |

Time between initial funding request to GEF and BUR submission to UNFCCC for non-SIDs and-non LDCs

Suggested timeline for supporting first BTR for submission



* LDC/SIDS can submit the BTRs at their discretion.

** Stand-alone NC support will remain available. In this case, NC and/or BTR support may be subject to reduction of budget from the set-aside resources to avoid duplication of resources for elements in common.

Key questions to explore

How are the current operational modalities and procedures responding to the need to further support countries to prepare and submit their first BTR before December 31, 2024, and can any possible adjustment be introduced to enhance efficiency?

How can the GEF help to expedite BTR submission to UNFCCC?