

Possible Modalities and Costing for Biennial Transparency Report Support

This document has been prepared by the GEF Secretariat as a background document for the second Informal Consultation on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports, to be held on 17 November 2020.

Background

Guidance to the Global Environment Facility

Article 13 of the Paris Agreement establishes an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, and states that support shall be provided to developing country Parties for its implementation and for the building of transparency-related capacity of developing country Parties on a continuous basis.¹

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at the third part of its first session (CMA 1.3) adopted the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support.²

The CMA decided that Parties shall submit their first biennial transparency report (BTR) and national inventory report, if submitted as a stand-alone report, in accordance with these modalities, procedures and guidelines, at the latest by 31 December 2024 and that the least developed country (LDC) Parties and small island developing States (SIDS) may submit this information at their discretion.

The CMA urged and requested the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to support developing country Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTR. The CMA also encouraged the GEF to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13, in particular for addressing the challenges in the application process, including by potentially providing an avenue for Parties to apply for funding for more than one report through the same application in each replenishment period.

The CMA urged the GEF and its implementing and executing agencies, and encouraged the GEF Council, to consider options for improving the efficiency of the process for providing support for reporting under Article 13, including through better streamlining of the processes related to applications, implementation plans and signing of grant agreements.

¹ Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

² Contained in the annex to Decision 18/CMA.1 adopted in December 2018.

At CMA 2, Parties reiterated their request to the GEF to adequately support developing countries Parties in preparing their first and subsequent BTR under its seventh replenishment (GEF-7) and through its replenishment cycles.³

The GEF also continues to provide support to developing country Parties in transparency-related capacity-building in accordance with the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions through the CBIT.

First Informal Consultation Meeting

On June 18, 2020, the GEF held a virtual informal consultation meeting on financial support for BTRs to discuss support needs, possible modalities, and timing with partners. The meeting was attended by 45 participants including country representatives, and representatives from the LDC Group, UNFCCC Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The discussion focused on considerations for costing BTRs, supporting BTRs in conjunction with National Communications (NCs), avoiding duplication of support in the transition to BTRs, preliminary options for supporting the first BTR based on existing modalities, and potential resource implications. Meeting information is available on the GEF website.⁴

The participants also discussed the following topics:

- How can the GEF sequence its support for countries' final BURs and first BTRs?
- What are the resource implications for GEF-7 and beyond?
- What is the experience of existing support modalities and how can these be enhanced?

The GEF Secretariat presented three potential modalities for supporting the first BTR as follows:

- **Modality A – Stand-alone or bundled with NC**
 - Support about 50 countries through stand-alone or bundled requests on a first-come, first-served basis using existing modalities in GEF-7.
- **Modality B – Umbrella Program**
 - Plan for an umbrella program for BTRs that supports a set number of countries for inclusion in the June/December 2021 Work Program. If additional countries want to join, the umbrella program could be expanded prior to July 2022 if there are enough resources.
- **Modality C – Amendment of existing Enabling Activity (EA)**
 - Provide top-up resources to GEF-7 BURs and NCs already under implementation and with expected submission dates after 2022, so they meet BTR requirements.

³ Decision 7/CMA.2 adopted in December 2019.

⁴ GEF, 2020. [Informal Consultation Meeting on Financial Support for Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Climate Agreement](#).

Many participants shared their views that Modality C might be a good way forward to address the transitional period. Modality A could also be supported, while more details would be needed to better understand how NCs and BTRs could be combined. Modality B was identified as the least preferred option considering the timeline issues previous umbrella programs encountered.

Informed by the discussions, the GEF has undertaken additional analysis and revision of programming modalities and costing.

Options Considered for Supporting the First BTR

BTR Support Modalities

The GEF Secretariat is presenting three modalities for supporting the first BTR. They are: stand-alone BTR support, combined NC/BTR support, and additional financing (top-up). They are described below, with expected roll-out schedule and the number of eligible countries in GEF-7 and GEF-8 periods.

Modality 1: Stand-alone BTR

Summary of modality: Under this modality, countries can request BTR support as single country EA projects. This modality follows the standard GEF EA project cycle policies and guidelines. EA projects up to \$2 million are processed under the CEO expedited approval authority procedures, either as an expedited EA up to \$1 million, or as a Medium-Sized Project (MSP) above \$1 million and up to \$2 million. Countries also have an option to submit EA proposals above \$2 million, which are processed as Full-Sized Projects (FSP) on a non-expedited basis, to be included in a Work Program for Council approval. Countries can submit an EA request through a GEF Agency or through Direct Access modality.

Expected roll-out schedule: The GEF intends to make this modality available from early 2021, almost four years ahead of the December 2024 deadline for the first BTR submission. Countries will be encouraged to submit their request as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for preparation and submission. This modality can be used in GEF-7 and continue to be used in GEF-8 for the first and subsequent BTRs.

For the first BTR, the GEF suggests an initial deadline of January 2023 for this modality for non-SIDS and non-LDCs, so that countries will have sufficient time to submit their first BTRs by the December 2024 deadline. SIDS and LDCs, which can submit the BTR at their discretion, are not bound by this deadline and can request to use this modality any time.

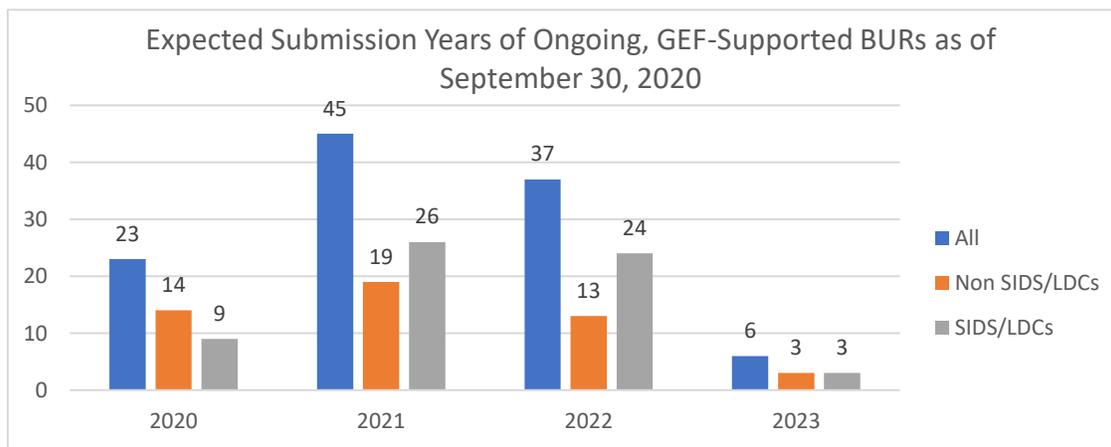
In order to avoid duplication of resources, this modality will be made available to countries upon submission of their last GEF-supported BUR.

Number of eligible countries and GEF phases: Up to 105 countries, including 49 SIDS and LDCs, could request support for a stand-alone BTR in the GEF-7 period. Up to 40 countries, including 27 SIDS and LDCs, could request resources for their first BTR through this modality in the early GEF-8 period.

These numbers are estimated based on the current status of ongoing BURs and support provision. According to the latest survey on the status of BUR preparations, as of September 30, 2020, there are 111 ongoing BUR projects with the various expected submission years (see Figure 1). Of these, 68 countries, including 35 SIDS and LDCs, are expected to submit their BURs in 2020 and 2021, which will make them ready to request BTR support before the end of the GEF-7 period. In addition, there are 37 countries, including 14 SIDS and LDCs, that do not have ongoing BUR support from the GEF as of 15 November 2020.⁵ In total, 105 countries would have the option to request support in the GEF-7 period. These numbers are based on the assumption that countries will not prepare another BUR prior to preparing their first BTR.

Also, 37 countries are expected to submit their BTRs in 2022 and 3 SIDS and LDCs in 2023, according to the survey, which means they may be ready request BTR support in the GEF-8 period.

Figure 1



Modality 2: Combined BTR/NC

Summary of modality: Under this modality, countries can request combined support for a BTR and an NC. This modality would also follow the standard EA project policies and guidelines as described for Modality 1.

⁵ This includes 21 countries (including 6 SIDS and LDCs) that submitted their last BUR as of October 31, 2020 and have not yet requested support for their next BUR, and 16 countries (including eight SIDS and LDCs) that have never requested BUR support.

Expected roll-out schedule: The GEF Secretariat expects to make this modality available in GEF-7 and GEF-8 for the first and subsequent BTRs. Considering existing average timelines for report preparations particularly with the four-year preparation period of NCs, countries are encouraged to request resources as soon as possible.

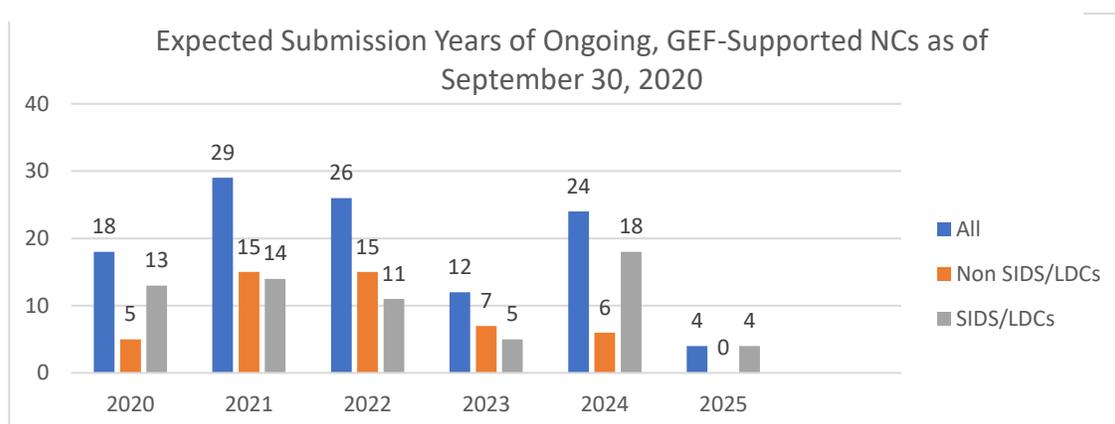
For the first BTR, the GEF suggests a deadline of January 2022 for this modality for non-SIDS and non-LDCs. SIDS and LDCs, which can submit the BTR at their discretion, can request to use this modality any time. If a country has an ongoing BUR, the modality can still be used as long as the ongoing BUR has an expected submission date prior to the target BTR/NC submission date.

In order to avoid duplication of resources, this modality will be available to countries upon submission of their last GEF-supported NC.

Number of eligible countries and GEF phases: Up to 81 countries, including 38 SIDS and LDCs, could request support for a combined BTR/NC in the GEF-7 period for the first BTR. In GEF-8, this modality will only be available to SIDS and LDCs to support their first BTR, if they did not make the request in GEF-7. For the second BTR, any country could request support under this modality upon submission of the first stand-alone BTR and their last GEF-funded NC.

The number of eligible countries is estimated based on the current status of ongoing NCs and support provision. According to the latest survey on the status of NC preparations, as of September 30, 2020, there are 114 ongoing NC projects with various submission years (Figure 2). Of these, 47 countries, including 27 SIDS and LDCs, and are expected to submit their NCs in 2020 and 2021, which will make them ready to request BTR support before the end of the GEF-7 period. In addition, there are 34 countries, including 11 SIDS and LDCs, that do not have an ongoing NC, of which 13 NCs were submitted in 2020. These countries may be interested in preparing their subsequent NC in conjunction with the first BTR in the GEF-7 period.

Figure 2



Modality 3: Additional Financing (Top-Up)

Summary of modality: This modality provides additional support to ongoing reporting projects. This modality also follows the standard EA project policies and guidelines as described above to provide top-up, additional financing to ongoing BUR and NC projects to also prepare BTRs.

Modality C consists of the approval of additional financing as a stand-alone EA, parallel to an ongoing EA support approved in GEF-7 (or GEF-6). This is necessary, as an amendment to a GEF project that requires additional financing needs to be carried out within the same replenishment cycle that the project was originally approved. It means that BUR and/or NC support provided in GEF-6 or GEF-7 cannot not be amended in GEF-8.⁶ This modality provides support to countries with ongoing EA support that may fall under this condition.

Expected roll-out schedule: This modality is most likely used once a country determines that there would not be sufficient time to request support for a stand-alone BTR or a combined BTR/NC. Hence, it will become available after the proposed deadlines for the other two modalities, after January 2023 in GEF-8. Since it only supports countries in their transition to the first BTR, this modality is relevant only during GEF-8, on a case-by-case basis, and will not be available in future GEF phases.

Number of eligible countries and GEF phases: Of the 40 countries, including 27 SIDS and LDCs, that have ongoing NCs with expected submission dates in 2023 and beyond, 24 countries (including 18 SIDS and LDCs) also have ongoing BURs. Since SIDS and LDCs may submit their first BTR at their discretion, only six countries may need to access this modality in GEF-8. Even for these six countries, the applicability of this modality depends on the actual submission date of their ongoing BUR.

Additional BUR Support

With the transition to the enhanced transparency framework, the GEF Secretariat will phase out the ongoing support to BURs. Developing countries can submit their final BUR up to December 2024. The GEF Secretariat suggested a cutoff deadline for BUR support of January 2021 at the June 2020 meeting. During the discussions, the postponement of the finalization of the reporting tables was raised as a potential roadblock to phasing out GEF's BUR support before the end of 2021.

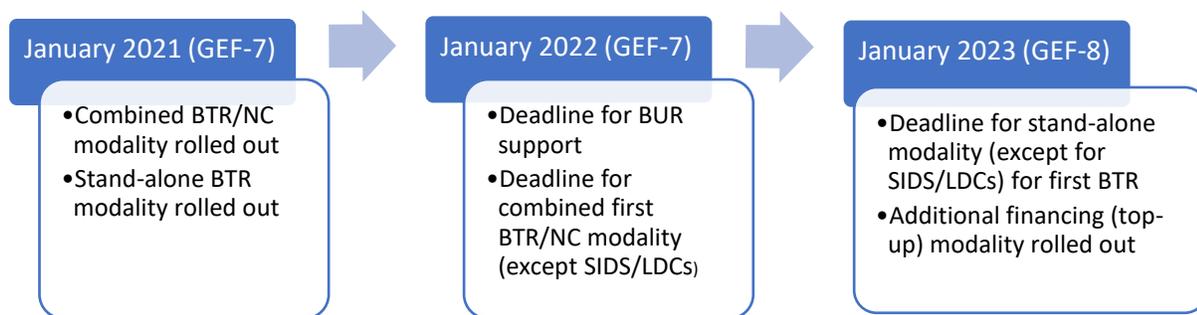
Accordingly, a deadline for GEF's BUR support for Paris Agreement Parties is proposed to be January 2022, to accommodate the process for the finalization of the reporting tables and also recognizing the two-year cycle and deadline for the submission of the first BTR by December 2024.

⁶ An important consideration as the submission deadline for the first BTR (December 2024) falls in the middle of GEF-8 (2022-2026).

Furthermore, while it is up to countries to decide to prepare another BUR before December 2024, the GEF Secretariat will begin to encourage them to shift to the first BTR preparation unless the country is committed to preparing and submitting the final BUR before December 2022. It is also possible that by rolling out early support for BTRs (both through BTR/NC and stand-alone BTR modalities) starting in January 2021, countries may be incentivized to start early BTR preparations instead of another BUR.

The suggested timeline for supporting the first BTR for submission by December 2024 is illustrated in the figure below.

Figure 3. Suggested Timelines for Different Modalities for Supporting first BTR for Submission by December 2024



BTR Costing Analysis

Background: The key questions related to this topic that were discussed during the June 2020 Information Consultation Meeting were as follows:

- How do BTR components compare with NC and BUR contents?
- How to avoid potential duplication between NCs and BTRs?
- What are the minimum resources necessary to respond to each component of the report based on the adopted modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) and agreed costs for NCs and BURs?

According to the MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support, in the BTR:

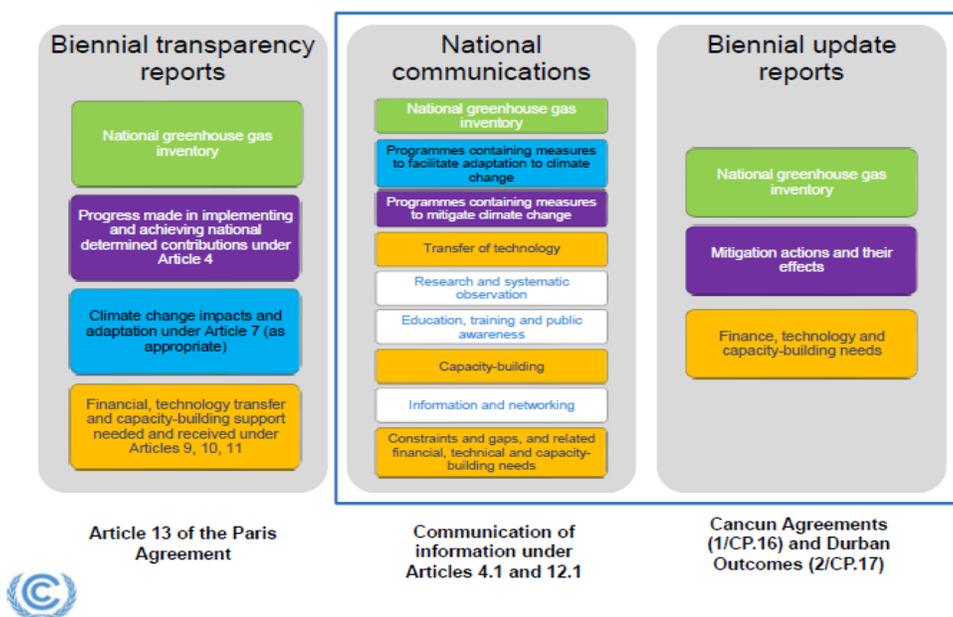
- (a) Each Party is required to provide a national inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases (GHGs);⁷
- (b) Each Party is required to provide the information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving its nationally determined contribution (NDC) under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement;

⁷ The national inventory report may be submitted as a stand-alone report or as a component of a BTR.

- (c) Each Party may provide information on climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement;⁸
- (d) Developed country Parties are required to provide information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support provided to developing country Parties. Other Parties that provide support may provide such information;
- (e) Developing country Parties may provide information on financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received.

While the specific requirements and provisions differ from the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements under the Convention, the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement builds on these existing MRV arrangements (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Enhanced Transparency Framework vis-a-vis Existing MRV Arrangements: Reporting Themes (Source: UNFCCC)



Costing for Modality A – Stand-alone BTR: Based on the current GEF full cost support for BURs and NCs, which contain similar elements to the BTRs, an indicative cost table for the elements outlined above for BTRs was developed.

This cost analysis, presented in Table 1, suggests supporting the **BTR up to \$484,000**, inclusive of the optional elements related to adaptation, financial, technical and capacity support needed, and other relevant information. This amount includes required BTR components of

⁸ Parties may submit an adaptation communication as a component of, or in conjunction with, a BTR. If that is the case, the Party should clearly identify which part of the report is the adaptation communication.

\$341,000, and provisions for optional elements. The suggested amounts, presented in Table 1, were revised to take into account various comments raised during the informal consultation.

Table 1. Comparison of Components with BUR and NC, and Proposed Indicative Cost for BTR

Component of Report	Indicative Cost (US\$)			Comments on suggested cost for BTR elements
	BUR	NC	BTR	
✓ Stocktaking and assessment		20,000		Included in each component
✓ Information on national circumstances and institutional arrangements	10,000	12,000		Included in reach component
✓ National GHG inventory	120,000	150,000	160,000	Higher to account for additional requirements
✓ Information on mitigation actions and their effect	100,000	175,000	120,000	Higher to account for additional requirements
✓ Description of steps taken or envisaged to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change			100,000	Optional
✓ Constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity needs	5,000	15,000	20,000	Optional
✓ Technical assistance		12,000		Supported by other sources (i.e. CBIT, GSP)
✓ Information on the level of support received for preparation and submission of BURs	5,000			Not applicable to BTRs
✓ Information on domestic MRV	45,000			Not applicable to BTRs
✓ Other relevant information	5,000	30,000	10,000	Optional
✓ Monitoring, reporting and preparation of financial audits	15,000	18,000	30,000	No M&E budget required
✓ Publication and submission of BUR	15,000	18,000		
Subtotal	320,000	450,000	440,000	
Project management cost	32,000	50,000	44,000	10% per GEF guidelines
Total	352,000	500,000	484,000	

Costing for Modality B – Combined BTR/NC: Parties may continue to report a separate NC every four years, or may choose to submit a single BTR/NC report in the years a NC is submitted, following the MPGs for BTRs, and include:

- (a) Supplemental chapters on research and systemic observation and on education, training and public awareness, in accordance with applicable guidelines in 17/CP.8 or 6/CP.25;
- (b) An additional chapter on adaptation for Parties that have not included this information in the BTR, in accordance with applicable guidelines in 17/CP.8 or 6/CP.25.

Submitting a single BTR/NC can help to avoid the duplication between NCs and BTRs, reduce the reporting burden on countries, and support the timely submission of reports. Table 2 presents indicative cost for a **combined BTR/NC modality, totaling \$517,000**.

The additional \$33,000 above the stand-alone BTR cost aims to account for the costs for reporting on the supplemental chapters on research and systemic observation, and education, training and public awareness. The additional chapter on adaptation has been included in the stand-alone BTR budget already.

Table 2. Proposed Indicative Cost for Combined BTR/NC

BTR/NC Components		Indicative Cost (US\$)
I.	National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases	160,000
II.	Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement	120,000
III.	Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement	100,000
IV.	Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement	20,000
V.	Other relevant information including supplemental NC chapters (research and systemic observation; and, education, training and public awareness)	40,000
VI.	Publication and submission of report, and project execution support	30,000
Sub Total BTR/NC		470,000
Project management cost (10%)		47,000
Total		517,000

Based on these suggested indicative costs, options for financing of BTRs for developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement will be presented as an information document to the GEF Council in December 2020. It is expected that these indicative costs would apply to the first and subsequent BTRs. For GEF-8 support,

Costing for Modality C – Additional financing: This modality is expected to cost \$100,000 to \$200,000, depending on the status of ongoing BUR or NC preparations and specific needs to adjust these preparations to support the first BTR.

Summary of Modalities for First BTR

Table 3 presents a summary of three modalities for countries to access support for their first BTR preparations. These modalities are developed to ensure the GEF can offer support for BTRs with ample time for countries to request the needed support and prepare their first BTR to be

submitted by the December 2024 deadline. They are based on existing modalities and thus would not require new or additional policies and guidelines to be developed. The EA modality already offers streamlining in terms of expedited approval processes at the GEF and full commitment and transfer of funds by the Trustee upon project approval.

Table 3: Summary of Modalities for First BTR Support

Combined BTR/NC	Stand-alone BTR	Additional financing (top-up)
Up to \$517,000 set-aside funding	Up to \$484,000 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 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 not have ongoing BUR support • Ongoing NC is acceptable • Encouraged for countries that submit last supported NC <i>after</i> December 2021 	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 2022 (not applicable to LDC/SIDS)	Deadline for submitting request: January 2023 (not applicable to LDC/SIDS)	Deadline for submitting request: January 2024
Second BTR supported by stand-alone BTR modality (NCs submitted 2024, 2028...)	Second BTR supported by BTR/NC modality (NCs submitted 2026, 2030...)	Second BTR supported by stand-alone BTR modality (NCs submitted 2024, 2028...)
<p>✓ LDC/SIDS can submit BTRs at their discretion. For those that do not intend to submit the first BTR on or before the December 2024 deadline, they can choose either stand-alone BTR modality (once last BUR with GEF support has been submitted) or BTR/NC modality (once last NC with GEF support has been submitted).</p>		
<p>✓ BUR support will no longer be available for Paris Agreement parties after January 2022.</p>		
<p>✓ Stand-alone NC support will be made available to countries that do not wish to submit NC and BTR together. In this case, NC and/or BTR may be subject to reduction of budget from the set-aside resources to avoid duplication of resources.</p>		

Combined BTR/NC	Stand-alone BTR	Additional financing (top-up)
✓ Stand-alone NC support will continue to be made available to countries that have not ratified/acceded to the Paris Agreement.		

Countries can continue to choose to complement available set-aside funding with their STAR allocation if they require additional resources than the amounts proposed. In addition, they can continue to fund multiple reports beyond the set-aside funding available.

The suggested BTR costing indicates that in four years, **a Party could access up to \$1,001,000 to support two BTRs and one NC from the GEF**. The GEF plans to continue to provide EA support from the set-aside resources, to the agreed full cost amount.

Comparison with existing support: The existing GEF full cost support arrangements for UNFCCC reports consist of support for one NC and two BURs in a four-year period, which is maximum \$1,204,000 from set-aside resources.

On average, countries have accessed \$212,833 per year or \$851,333 over four-years since GEF-5 (BURs were introduced in 2011). Only six countries have accessed the maximum amount of set-aside funding of \$1,204,000 over a period of four years.

Furthermore, as part of the negotiations that led to the adoption of the enhanced transparency framework, reporting requirements were streamlined to reduce potential overlaps and reporting burden for countries.

Given these observations, the new BTR support modalities and costing are expected to provide more streamlined, timely, and needed support to countries, which can help countries to plan for and meet the new BTR requirements.

These suggested modalities also provide the opportunity to support multiple reports on an expedited basis. The difference of \$1,000 may be reduced from the combined BTR/NC modality if a country wishes to utilize the expedited EA modality, which is applicable for EAs up to \$1 million.

Additional modality in GEF-8: An additional consideration for GEF-8 may be to propose a modality for supporting multiple reports, namely two BTRs and one NC. It is proposed that this modality be made available to countries that submit their first BTR on time, i.e., by December 2024 for non-SIDS and LDCs and by the intended date at approval for SIDS and LDCs. This modality is not feasible for the GEF-7 period, due to resource constraints.

Financial and Programming Implications for GEF-7 and GEF-8

Set-aside resources: For the GEF-7 period, resources totaling \$165 million were set-aside to support EAs and the CBIT, as shown in Table 4. Of this amount, \$110.0 million were indicatively allocated to support EAs, including BURs and NCs for developing country Parties and technology

needs assessments (TNAs) for SIDS and LDCs. Approximately \$42.5 million of this amount has been programmed as of November 4, 2020.

For the CBIT, the indicative allocation of set aside resources has been exhausted. To date, \$51.2 million of the \$55.0 million allocated have been programmed and \$15.8 million are currently reserved in the system by projects under review. As CBIT resources are available to developing countries upon request, additional resources from the total set aside envelope will be re-allocated to continue supporting CBIT projects.

Table 4. GEF-7 Support for Enabling Activities and Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (as of November 4, 2020)

	Indicative Allocation	Programmed To Date	Remaining Allocation	Under Review	Remaining Allocation Including Pending
EA SET ASIDE	\$ 110,000,000	\$42,511,528	\$67,488,472	\$2,798,820	\$64,689,652
CBIT SET ASIDE	\$ 55,000,000	\$51,192,662	\$3,807,338	\$15,814,666	\$(12,007,328)

Resource implications for GEF-7 and GEF-8: Resource implications for first BTR support have been estimated for GEF-7 and GEF-8, as presented in Table 5. The estimations for different modalities were informed by an analysis of BURs and NCs under implementation and their projected submission dates to determine:

- Number of countries with potential sequencing issues (i.e. require transitional support)
- Number of countries that would benefit from combining their first BTR with a NC (i.e. with ongoing BUR with expected submission dates by December 2020 and/or ongoing NC with expected submission date before December 2021)
- Number of countries likely request a stand-alone BTR (i.e. with ongoing NC with expected submission dates after December 2021).

The Combined BTR/NC modality is costed at \$517,000 per country, and the stand-alone BTR modality is costed at \$454,000. The additional financing (top-up) modality is calculated at a projected maximum of \$200,000 per country.

These estimates assume that countries prefer the combined BTR/NC option over separate EA projects. The amounts below include the agency fee of 9.5 percent.

Table 5. Estimated Resource Implications under Proposed Modalities for First BTR Support

GEF Phase	GEF-7			GEF-8			Total GEF resources for first BTR support (\$ million)
	Combined BTR/NC	Stand-alone BTR	Total	Stand-alone BTR	Additional financing (top-up)	Total	

Non-SIDS/LDCs	23.8	5.8	29.6	6.9	1.3	8.2	37.8
SIDS/LDCs	21.5	8.5	30.0	4.2	3.1	7.3	37.3
All countries	45.3	14.3	59.6	11.1	4.4	15.5	75.1

While these amounts are preliminary, they provide an initial estimation of the potential resources that will be needed to support the first BTR. Considering the remaining set-aside resource allocation of approximately \$53 million, the GEF will have to carefully balance supporting new BURs in 2021, supporting additional CBIT projects in the remainder of GEF-7 and supporting first BTRs.

Projected GEF-8 resource needs for first and subsequent BTR support: The GEF-8 BTR support needs to include support for second and subsequent BTRs, in addition to any remaining first BTR support that was not covered in the GEF-7 period. Assuming all first BTRs are submitted by December 2024 and therefore the next BTR request is made in 2025, the additional resources requested to support subsequent BTRs and BTR/NCs in GEF-8 could amount to \$80 million (including Agency fees). Combined with the \$15.5 million projected support needs for first BTRs, approximately \$96 million for set-aside resources may be needed in GEF-8 to support BTRs. This amount does not envision stand-alone NC support. This amount would be in line with the indicative resource allocations for enabling activities in GEF-7, not including CBIT support. Relevant support needs will be presented in the Programming Directions for the GEF-8 replenishment negotiations, which will start in early 2021.