



Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

Basic Information

GEF ID

10088

Countries

Global

Project Title

Global Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Platform Phase II B: Unified Support Platform and Program for Article 13 of the Paris Agreement

GEF Agency(ies)

UNDP, UNEP

Agency ID

UNDP: 6306

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Milena Vasquez

PIF

Part I – Project Informatics

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, the project is aligned with the climate change focal area, specifically with its objectives to foster enabling conditions for mainstreaming mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies through the CBIT and through enabling activities. The respective amounts per focal area elements take into account the Phase II A project, which was funded by the CBIT TF.

Agency Response

N/A

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

The project objective only focuses on supporting countries to respond to the new commitments under Article 13, but this program should also support countries under the Convention with their reporting commitments per the climate change focal area strategy. In addition, the project objective is focused on establishing and maintaining reporting and transparency frameworks, whereas the project outcomes are focused on developing and enhancing capacity and access to knowledge and information to better respond to Convention and Paris Agreement reporting obligations. Also recommend including within the project objective that an additional goal/outcome of the enhanced transparency framework is to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs.

Please amend the project objective per the comments above.

We note that there is no budget outlined for M&E activities, including for a mid-term review and independent terminal evaluation. Please add relevant component and associated budget. Also recommend utilizing existing evaluation tools to help measure the progress of a country's ability to meet UNFCCC reporting obligations in a consistent manner (e.g. the EPA's IPI tool).

We also note that there is no co-financing identified for Component 1 and the Project Management Cost (PMC). Please consider identifying additional co-financing for Component 1, as well as co-financing the PMC to support the costs associated with the execution of the project.

10/18/2019: We suggest the following changes to the Project Objective to better simplify the extended explanation.

To provide streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreements to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs.

Please note that there are several sections throughout the proposal that have been crossed out (revised, edited) but not yet deleted. This was helpful to see changes, but for the final Portal version it is best if these are removed. Please delete throughout.

Since Component 1 is not to start implementation until much later, it looks weird to have it up first. Consider presenting Component 2 first and removing the years in parenthesis from table A.

11/4/2019:

Project objective looks the same as initial submission. Please check.

Strike-through was removed. Comments cleared.

Component 2 has been presented as component 1. Comment cleared.

11/8/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

The project objective has been reworded to reflect a scope of work that address country reporting under the UNFCCC and under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

A separate component has been added (see Table I.B and the text of Section II.1a.3) for project monitoring and evaluation, which is now budgeted at 5% of the total GEF grant requested.

Additional co-financing in the amount of USD 500,000 from UNEP DTU Partnership has been added to the project, with USD 400,000 for the support of activities in Component 1 and USD 100,000 as co-financing for the Project Management Cost (See Tables I.B and I.C).

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

- 1) 1) The project objective has been re-worded.
- 2) 2) Strikethrough comments have been deleted throughout the document.
- 3) 3) Component 2 is now presented first throughout the document, and the years in parenthesis have been removed in Table A.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/08/2019

Objective has been amended as *"To provide streamlined need-based capacity building and technical support at the country, regional, and global level, to enable Non Annex I countries under the UNFCCC and developing countries under the Paris Agreements to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyze increased action within country NDCs."*

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please address comment above regarding co-financing for Component 1 and the PMC.

10/18/2019: Comment above on co-financing has been addressed.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Addressed in the response to #2 above.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, the project is requesting \$5,567,547 in grant resources from the CCM global/regional set aside.

10/18/2019: Please fix Table D to request the resources from the CBIT Set Aside and the CC set-aside per the division in Table A per the programming directions objectives: \$567,547 from CBIT Set Aside, \$5,000,000 from CC Set Aside.

11/4/2019: We note that CC Set Aside was not chosen under Programming of Funds. Please select it if it is possible.

11/8/2019: Comment cleared. This is not currently possible with the existing template.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

Table D now requests resources from the CBIT set-aside and the CC set-aside, reflecting the division in Table A.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/08/2019

The IT System of the Portal doesn't permit to select 'CC Set-Aside'

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, the project is requesting \$5,567,547 in grant resources from the CCM global/regional set aside.

10/18/2019: See comment above.

11/8/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

This comment has been addressed in Table D, which now indicates the distribution of resources between agencies and set-aside funds.

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, a PPG of \$50,000 is requested and is within the allowable cap for a project of this size.

10/18/2019: Please change source of funding for the PPG to be from the CC Set Aside instead.

11/4/2019: Please note that Table E is still requesting the resources from the CBIT Set-Aside instead of the CC Set Aside. Please fix.

11/8/2019: Comment cleared. This cannot be changed in the current template.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

The source of funding in Table E has been changed to the CC set-aside.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/08/2019

The IT System of the Portal doesn't permit to select 'CC Set-Aside'

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, the project will report on Core Indicator 11. However, the estimated number of beneficiaries seems small for the size and expected outcomes of the project. Please refer to guidance in the Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7.

10/18/2019: This has been revised. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

The estimated number of beneficiaries has been revised upwards based on the number of anticipated CBIT program countries and countries with GEF Enabling Activities in climate change and changes have been made in Table I.F. Core Indicator 11 is now 500 project beneficiaries, and of that, 250 women.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes.

Agency Response

art II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please elaborate on the existing reporting requirements under the Convention and the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 as well as anticipated reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement and the potential outcomes of the next COP, including how the new transparency framework will build upon and/or supersede the existing reporting framework and the timeline of the transition.

The PIF makes the argument that the "enhanced transparency framework present an opportunity to streamline MRV activities" but this is not actually clear at this stage. For example, National Communications may continue to be a reporting obligation. Also, the requirements under the enhanced transparency framework regarding transparency of action and support may be more detailed than existing directives. In addition, the Paris Agreement will also require NDC updating. Elaborating on these unknowns and complexities at this stage may help inform how the project will be developed during PPG and would present a more complete context for this project.

Please also make sure that this section is not only focused on Article 13 as the project should also support reporting under the Convention.

Please also elaborate on existing gaps and needs at the country level, as informed by UNDP's and UNEP's experience supporting National Communications, BURs and CBIT projects, specifically as it relates to the different areas from Figure 1: inventories, mitigation actions, climate change impacts and adaptation actions, financial, technology transfer and capacity-building support needed and received.

Also, please spellcheck this section.

10/18/2019: Comments above cleared. We note that actually developing countries are to submit their final Biennial Update Report by 2024 no 2022. Please fix.

11/4/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Additional text and figures have been provided under Part II.1a (on pages 5-7) on new reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement and their relationship to existing reporting under the UNFCCC.

The project contends that streamlining is possible even in the face of increasingly complex requirements. When countries establish permanent institutional arrangements and good practices in data collection, analysis, QA/QC, and reporting, country-level transparency, they have an MRV/transparency system that can respond to changes in reporting requirements with relative ease. It is assumed that requirements under the Paris Agreement will become more complex, but it is also certain that they will rely on the same common elements of data collection, exchange, analysis, and reporting. This reasoning underpins one of the three key project strategies for Phase II as a whole, and additional text has been added to the description of the Project Approach on page 12.

Additional text has been added on UNFCCC reporting in addition to Article 13 MPGs.

Frequent needs and gaps are now listed on pages 8-9 drawing upon experience from previous and ongoing GEF-funded initiatives.

A spellcheck of the full document has been done.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

The date for submission of the final BUR has been changed on page 6.

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please make sure the baseline scenario includes information on the work of the GSP and the CBIT Platform to date (currently some of this information is in the previous section, actually) and provide additional details.

Component two should describe in greater detail the expected scope of the work. How many more countries will be helped in the alternative scenario? Is there a strategic plan around which countries to assist? Is there an opportunity to work with countries at different levels of engagement? If so, what assessment will be used to make that determination uniformly? What lessons from the baseline can be used to help scale Phase II efforts?

Please also make sure to add information related to the Phase II A project and how the projects are split up and will be coordinated in implementation.

10/18/2019: Comment above on information related to Phase II A project not cleared. Please add this information in this section as baseline. When mentioning number of CBIT projects approved to date, better to just call them "approved CBIT projects" as the number changes constantly.

11/4/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

The description of baseline activities that have been carried out under the GSP and the CBIT Global Platform project is now included in this section. The description of regional networks and bilateral exchanges has also been added to the section on Output 2.2.

Text has been added in the "Alternative Project Scenario" section under "Project Approach" on the scope of work and the prioritization of country requests on page 13; at least 100 countries will benefit from the project. The support will be provided upon request, and in case of limited resources compared to demand the Project Steering Committee will prioritize. The support will be provided in diverse ways and at different levels (global through the platform and curated knowledge; regional through networks, and country-specific support upon request).

In terms of lessons from the baseline, the design of the project draws in part upon the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the GSP. Specifically, Recommendation 5.4 states that the project should "Further prioritise the use of regional networks as the backbone for the delivery of GSP's regional and national level activities and more strategic, longer-term engagement." The cultivation of the regional networks under Component 2 of the project will allow it to scale efforts to reach countries, both through the networks and through co-scheduling network events with regional events and regional climate weeks (Output 2.3).

Information has been added on the coordination with Phase IIA (GEF ID 10128) through the addition of start dates for the components in the description of project activities and through the section on the proposed alternative scenario, with an updated timeline of Phase IIA and IIB operations included on page 13.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

- 1) 1) The Phase II A MSP is now mentioned under the baseline discussion on page 11, including its current status.
- 2) 2) The number of CBIT projects approved to date has been removed on page 10, page 12, and in Table 2.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Part II, Output 2.1.6 presents an activity that has been carried out many, many times and there are no shortage of examples to draw from. Recommend reviewing the rest of the PIF for similar proposals that replicate existing resources.

Part II, Output 2.2. offers some really interesting anecdotes to justify these regional workshops, yet to date there is little evidence these have been captured and shared via the GCP in an impactful way. How will Phase II be different?

Part II, Output 2.3 centers on 14 regional training workshops. What kind of targeting/needs assessment can be done prior to the workshops to ensure the issues being addressed are indeed relevant to the parties involved? How will results from these workshops be measured as part of the overall M & E plan?

Under output 2.1, please elaborate if possible on the extent of use of 2006 IPCC guidelines by developing countries and how the project plans to incorporate the 2019 refinement.

Please consider changing the wording of Output 2.2.4 as the project will have a finite amount of resources to create additional networks and the program is meant to respond to identified needs and gaps, not necessarily requests.

Please add an M&E component.

10/18/2019: Comments above have not all been addressed, except for the M&E component added. Please respond to these comments in the review sheet and proposal.

Please also refer to the project approach as two "sequential" not complementary CBIT Phase II projects. A mention of the opportunity for the Phase A project to have been funded by the CBIT TF and the timing of that project can be made to better explain the reasoning behind this approach.

Please consider switching the order of the first and second components.

Output 1.2. Definitely agree with the need to avoid overlaps in the development of guidance and knowledge products considering the many other existing groups working on these.

Regarding knowledge and lessons learned generated under output 3.2, please consider how information flows between CBIT projects and EA projects under implementation and this platform can be improved. There is a need to have better visibility on experiences on the ground and better identify barriers to the timely submission of reports.

11/4/2019: All comments above have been addressed. Comments cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Output 2.1.6 has been re-worded to reflect the urgent need to analyse NDC tracking across CBIT project countries. This information is not available elsewhere, and this activity will allow the global project to provide informed guidance on approaches that work well at the country level.

The MTR of the GSP rated the project "Highly Satisfactory" on the indicator "Stakeholders find the regional peer exchanges particularly useful." Output 2.2 will delve more deeply into this finding by introducing monitoring activities involving workshop participants (at six months *ex post*) in order to document the application of skills in a systematic way and to identify enabling factors or barriers in applying these skills. The description of Output 2.2 now includes bilateral visits between countries, which encourages learning relationships that transcend single events.

The regional training workshops under Output 2.3 will be designed based on information that is already being collected from CBIT project countries through their capacity self-assessments and through their input during annual global technical workshops. The regional/sub-regional network coordinators will report on specific needs and gaps prior to the workshops and will follow up with participating countries *ex post* in order to assess the effectiveness of the workshops and the uptake of the skills and materials acquired by participants. The project will also monitor the capacity self-assessments over time in order to measure changes.

Under Output 2.1, text has been added on the IPCC 2006 GPGs. All training modules and information materials on the 2006 GPGs will incorporate the 2019 modification. The primary emphasis on training in this area will be on countries that lack experience with the 2006 GPGs, followed by countries that are using a mix of the revised 1996 guidelines and the 2006 GPGs.

The wording of Output 2.2.4 (now Output 2.2.5) has been modified to reflect the limited resources available for the networks and the need for the global project to prioritize networks based on gaps and needs.

An M&E component has been added to the project as Component 3.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

1. Under Output 1.2 (previously Output 2.2), the Global Coordination Platform will develop specific sections for the regional networks linking to relevant information in other areas of the platform and providing a space for sharing information in the respective networks. The existing project profiles and knowledge sharing mechanisms will feed into the "regional sections," and most knowledge sharing and peer learning will hence go through these to support the regional knowledge sharing and peer learning efforts. This will allow the networks to share information and facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning in an efficient manner. This information has now been added to the description of Output 1.2 on page 16.

2. Under Output 1.3 (previously Output 2.3), the annual self-assessments conducted by CBIT project countries are an excellent source of information for regional needs assessments. The CBIT global platform also has a feature where countries can highlight what their capacity building needs are, which can inform the content of the training workshops. This feature will be maintained in the streamlined website. Text has been added to this effect on page 18, and Activity 1.3.1 now includes a survey prior to the workshops to confirm which topics will be of greatest interest.

3. Under Output 1.1 (previously Output 2.1), the use of IPCC guidelines is described in the text on page 15, and support for incorporation of the modification is now mentioned explicitly in Activity 1.1.1. Of the 47 Non Annex I countries that have submitted a Biennial Update Report to date, 10 are using the revised 1996 guidelines, while 7 are using a mix of the revised 1996 guidelines and the 2006 guidelines. It will be necessary to support the move to the 2006 guidelines not only among countries that have produced a BUR or BURs, but also with countries that previously have only produced one or more National Communications. All training modules and support related to the IPCC 2006 GPGs will take into account changes that have taken place in the GPGs due to the 2019 modification, and any other relevant guidelines coming into effect during project implementation.

4. Under Activity 1.2.4 (previously Activity 2.2.4), the activity description has been changed to “Organize network activities through annual work plans based on regional needs assessments.” (page 17). It is understood that funding for network activities will be determined by priority needs.

5. The project is now referred to as “sequential” rather than complementary. A mention of the opportunity for the Phase II A project to have been funded is now mentioned on page 11 of the revised PIF.

6. The order of the first and second components has been switched throughout the document.

7. In order to improve the flow of information between CBIT and climate change EA projects under implementation, a series of good practices will be developed from CBIT projects and categorized. In addition, lessons learned from timely/late submissions of BUR/NC will be systematized in order to support countries when planning BUR/NC development. These lessons will be made available on the platform and disseminated through the regional networks. In addition, knowledge products will highlight areas that are common to UNFCCC reporting for Non Annex I countries and Paris Agreement reporting for developing country parties. Specific activities will be proposed during the PPG phase of this project. Explanatory text has been added under Output 3.2 on page 21.

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

Yes, the project is aligned with the Climate Change focal area strategy.

Agency Response**5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

Yes.

Agency Response**6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?****Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

10/18/2019: Please comment on the expected number of beneficiaries in this section.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Core indicators have been revised as per the comment above.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

The expected number of beneficiaries is now presented and described on page 22.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/08/2019

The above comments were removed by mistake in the Portal. Now, they are placed in the comment space properly.

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please consider and elaborate how the project can explore other innovative approaches for capacity-building, both in the development and dissemination of knowledge products and in face-to-face training.

Please expand on the sustainability of the support provided, including for example through the project's knowledge management plan, as well as how the project will ensure the long-term sustainability of the regional South-South networks created and supported and exit strategies to ensure countries take ownership over the networks.

Please also comment on how the project aims to widely disseminate and thus scale up any guidance/support provided to reach additional people within a country, as well as to additional countries.

The CBIT should have a transformative impact with respect to the transparency agenda, and the proposed convergence with the Global Support Programme does in theory provide such an opportunity. However, the current language in the proposal remains somewhat vague with respect to delivering on the urgent requirements countries will have over the project timeline.

10/18/2019: Comments cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Additional explanation is now provided in the text of Section I.7 (Innovation, Sustainability, and Potential for Scaling Up).

As stated in the response to review comments under Part II.1, the project contends that streamlining is possible (and necessary) in the face of increasingly complex requirements. The shift from ad hoc programs in countries that produce stand-alone reports to ongoing institutional arrangements for climate change reporting is by definition transformational.

When countries establish permanent institutional arrangements and good practices in data collection, analysis, QA/QC, and reporting, country-level transparency, they will have an MRV/transparency system that can respond to the evolution in reporting requirements and can support the development and tracking of more robust NDCs.

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. This is a global project.

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, relevant stakeholders were consulted during the preparation of this PIF. In addition, the PIF outlines project stakeholders and their roles in the project implementation.

Agency Response**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes, but please explain that the dedicated output on gender is actually in the Phase II A project.

10/18/2019: Cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

This explanation has been provided in the section on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Ok, private sector will be involved informally.

Agency Response**Risks**

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please add a risk regarding any changes to the guidance from the UNFCCC and outcomes of the negotiations.

10/18/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

This risk and proposed steps to address it have been added under Table 3.

Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral**

initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please further clarify how the implementation and execution functions will be separated per the project cycle guidelines to ensure the financial management segregation of duties, including establishing:

- (a) A satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Agency; and
- (b) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

Please also make sure to add information related to the Phase II A project and how the projects are split up and will be coordinated in implementation.

10/18/2019: Please address comment above. In particular as it relates to the execution of activities to be carried out by UNDP and UNEP. In addition, please comment on whether the regional network coordinators are expected to be hired by the project and if so, confirm that they will not be existing agency staff.

11/4/2019: Thank you for the added information.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Additional information has been added in Section II.6 on the implementing arrangements and project management and oversight, including how the project will coordinate with the Phase II A Medium Sized Project (GEF ID 10128).

In terms of the separation of the implementation and execution functions, UNDP will continue using the same successful institutional arrangements used for the implementation and execution of the GSP, in collaboration and coordination between UNDP's office in NY and the UNDP regional centre in Istanbul. The project assurance roll will be provided by the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) specifically. UNDP IRH provides a three – tier supervision, oversight and quality assurance role – funded by the GEF agency fee. The quality assurance role supports the Project Board and Project Management Unit by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. Additional quality assurance and technical support will be provided by the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor in New York.

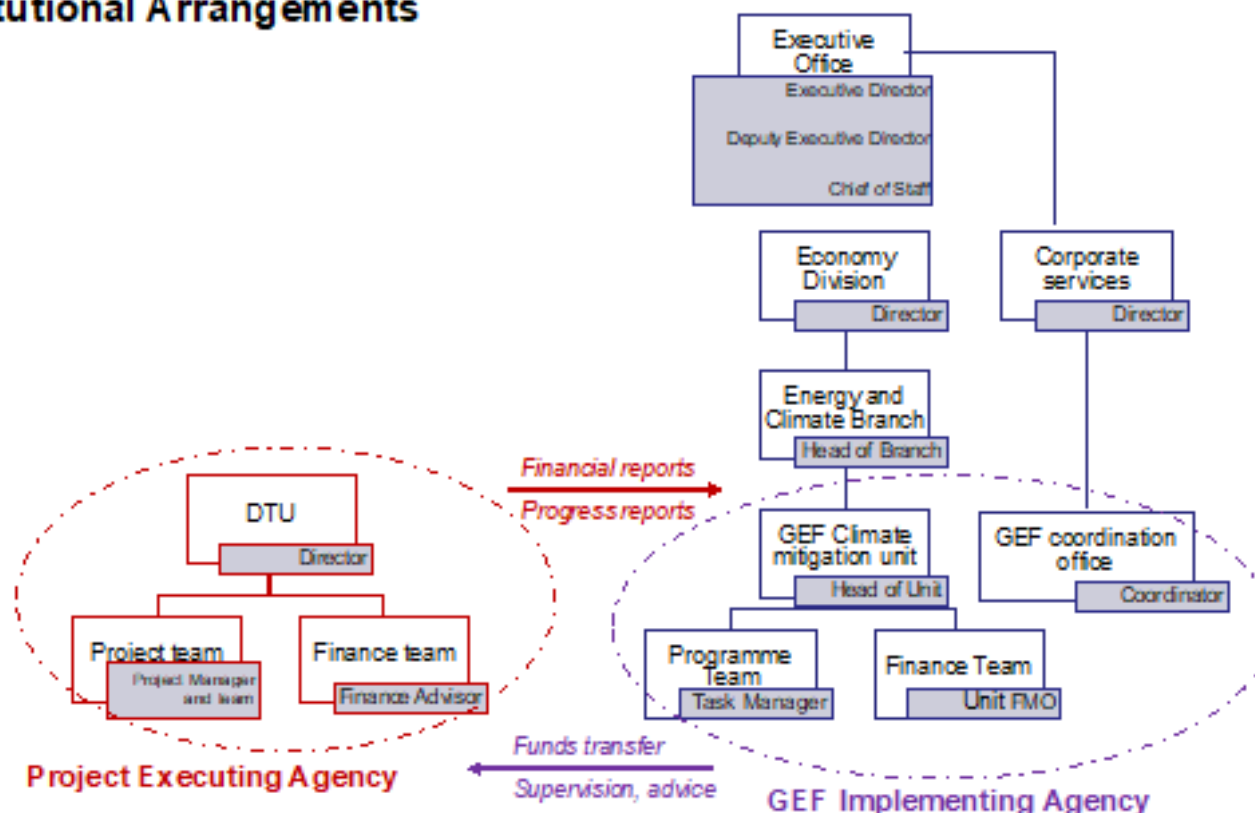
UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

1) The proposed institutional arrangement, which has been used by UNDP for the previous NCSP project and for the current GSP project, has proved to be effective and fully functional over the years. Support provided by the NCSP and now the GSP has been widely recognized by stakeholders, including both developed and developing countries, as useful and constructive, and satisfaction among beneficiaries has been consistently high. Furthermore, the GSP's mid-term review confirms this assessment: it rated the project objective achievement as satisfactory.

Through existing arrangements at UNDP, the project can benefit fully from UNDP's knowledge and expertise generated by the implementations of GEF funded projects, such as NCs, BURs and CBIT. The GSP project team and UNDP team overseeing EA s and CBIT sit together in the same offices, which facilitates sharing of inputs, ideas, and lessons learnt, benefitting the adoption of data-based and innovative practices in GSP implementation. Existing arrangements facilitate smooth coordination between the GSP and CBIT Global Coordination Platform—a feature that enhances efforts to streamline knowledge and support services under the second phase of both programs. Co-location of the project experts also reduces the risk of duplication and overlap, which results in more efficient service provision.

UNEP Institutional arrangements for project implementation and execution are illustrated in the organigram below:

UNEP Institutional Arrangements



A text description on implementation and execution functions of the GEF Implementing Agencies has been added under *Section 6. Coordination* on page 28. Implementation and execution functions will be kept separate as per GEF project cycle guidelines. In cases where UNDP is both the IA and the executing agency, implementation and execution functions will be distinct. Clear lines of responsibility, reporting, and accountability will be maintained between the project implementation and execution functions.

1) Additional text to explain the execution of the Phase IIA and IIB projects has been added on page 29. The project coordinator for the CBIT Phase I project will also serve as the coordinator for this proposed project, which means that the coordinator will oversee both projects during the time when they are running concurrently (see Figure 5) and will then continue to oversee Phase IIB following the conclusion of Phase IIA.

2) The regional network coordinators will not be existing agency staff, and this is now stated in the new paragraph on implementing and execution functions on page 27.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

This is a global project, but it will be aligned with the UNFCCC and IPCC guidelines, and guidance under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Please add information on how the project will stay abreast of any developments in the negotiations and incorporate new guidance or updated guidelines.

10/18/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Explanatory text has been added in Section II.7.

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed "knowledge management (KM) approach" in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Please add information on how specifically this project is informed by and has incorporated lessons from the Global Support Programme and the CBIT Global Coordination Platform projects, as well as UNDP's and UNEP's extensive experience working with countries in the development of their national reports to the UNFCCC. Please also add information on how the project plans to further learn and incorporate information from the closing of these two projects and their evaluations. Please also further describe how knowledge and learning will contribute to the sustainability of the program.

10/18/2019: Per the comment above, please consider developing a knowledge and experience feedback mechanism between the CBIT projects, the EA projects and this project in order to better serve countries and to ensure that there is better visibility on the current status of reporting activities as well as existing capacities, barriers and needs.

11/4/2019: Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, UNEP: 10/10/2019

Additional explanatory text has been added to Section II.8.

UNDP, UNEP: 11/02/2019

The project will design a knowledge and experience feedback mechanism during the PPG phase that will allow increased visibility regarding the status and needs of national reporting undertaken with the support of the CC enabling activities projects and the development of enhanced transparency frameworks supported by CBIT country-level projects. This mechanism will be a deliverable under Output 3.2, and it will also support the information gathering and planning for regional network activities and training plans under Output 1.2 and Output 1.3, respectively. Explanatory text has been added on page 31.

art III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A. This is a global project.

Agency Response

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

EFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Not at this time. After a call with the agencies, it was decided that the proposal would be broken up into two projects, an MSP that would request resources from the CBIT Trust Fund and an FSP that would request resources from the GEF Trust Fund. This will allow the CBIT Trust Fund resources to be programmed before the Council deadline of October 31, 2018 and ensure the continued support to the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, of which Phase I will end by June 2019.

Thank you for this re-submission. Please address comments above.

10/18/2019: Please address comments.

11/4/2019: Please address minor comments remaining.

11/8/2019: All comments cleared. PM recommends PIF clearance.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

/iew Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	10/24/2018	10/10/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/14/2018	11/2/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/18/2019	11/8/2019
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/4/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/8/2019	

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval