



United Nations
Climate Change

MANDATED EVENT:

**Workshop to facilitate the sharing of
experiences of developing country
Parties in preparing their first biennial
transparency reports**

18 June 2025

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Programme

10 min Opening remarks from SBI Chair and UNFCCC, Senior Director

10 min Scene setting and icebreaking activity

40 min Presentations from GEF and its implementing agencies

- *GEF, Conservation International, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, WWF-US (30 min)*
- *Q&A session (10 min)*

40 min Presentations from developing country Parties

- *Burkina Faso, China, Trinidad and Tobago (10 min each)*
- *Q&A session (10 min)*

45 min Breakout group discussion

30 min Plenary: Report back and reflections

5 min Key takeaways and closing



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Workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences of developing country Parties in preparing their first biennial transparency reports

Welcome Remarks



Julia Gardiner,
chair of the SBI



Daniele Violetti
UNFCCC
Senior Director

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Scene setting and icebreaking activity

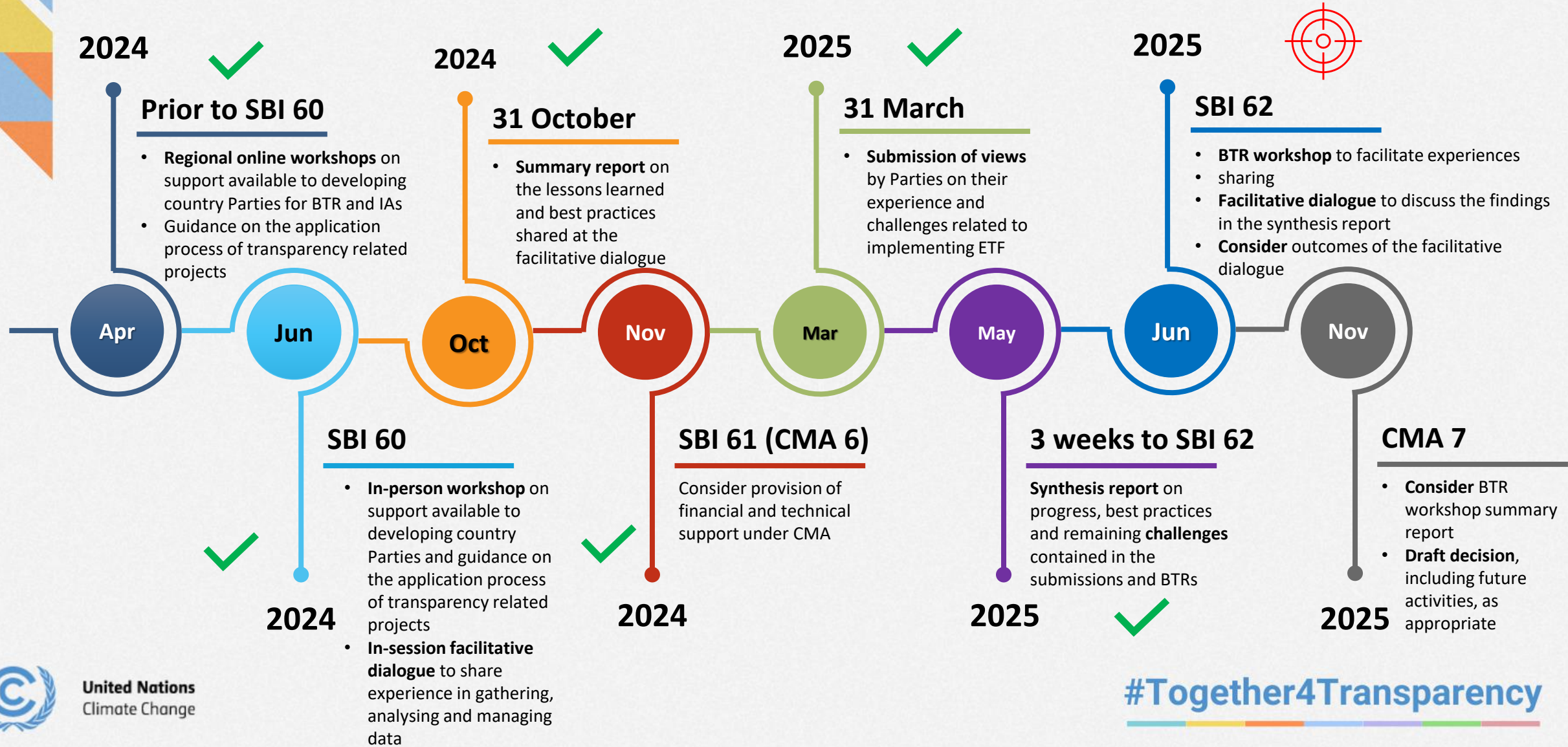
Jigme, Manager, UNFCCC secretariat

18 June 2025

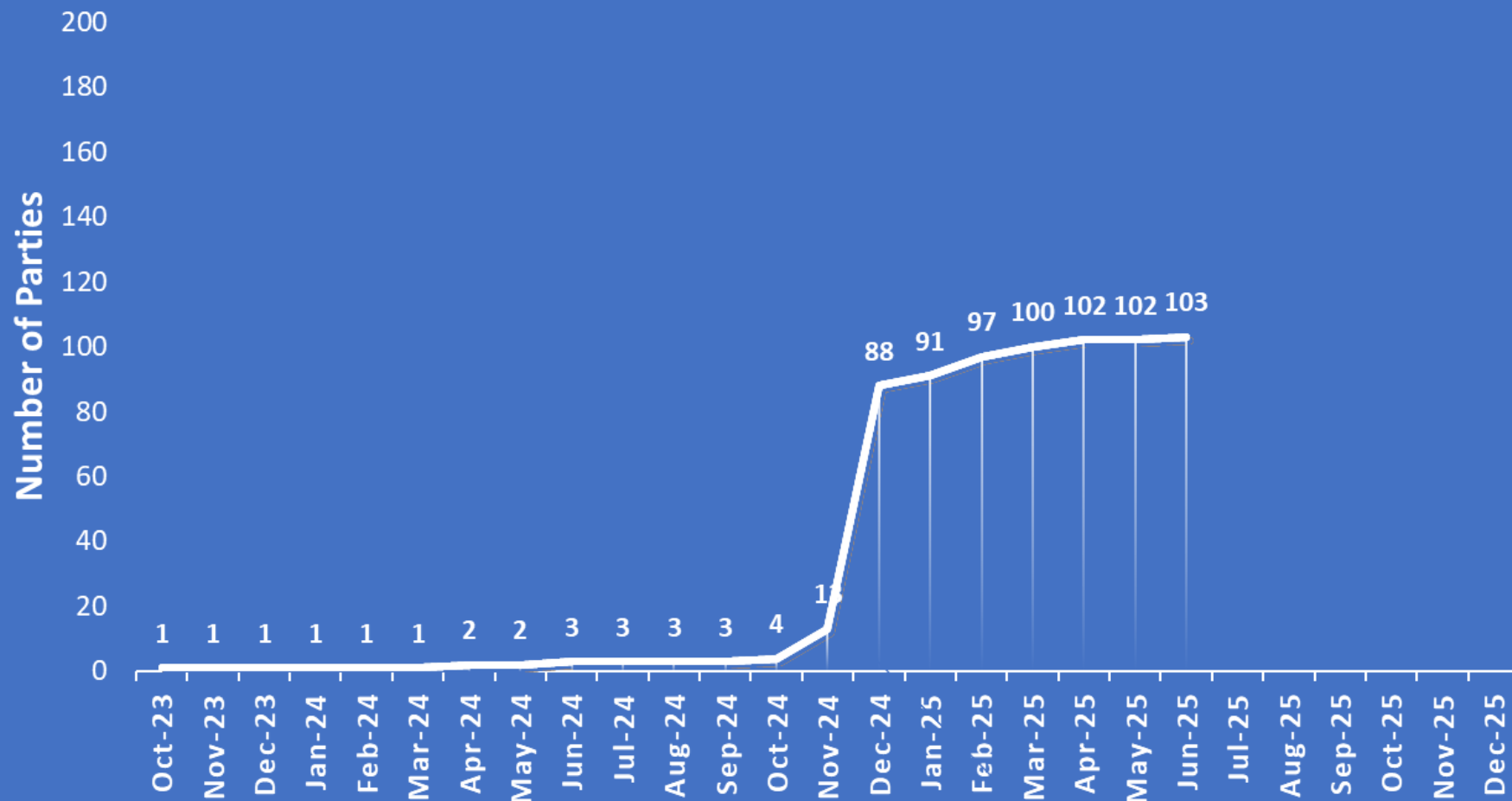
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ETF mandated activities as per decisions 18/CMA.5 & 21/CMA.6



Submission of first biennial transparency report



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Icebreaking activity- background of participants

Join at menti.com

Code: 8571 1009



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Thank you.

www.unfccc.int

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Experiences and Lessons Learned in supporting the first BTRs

*Workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences of
developing country Parties in preparing their first biennial
transparency reports (BTRs)*

SB62, 18 June 2025

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Overall support to transparency



Report

BTR and NC preparation

- 163 BTRs in 111 countries, totaling \$109 million
- \$53M out of \$145M committed so far in GEF-8
- Modalities: stand-alone, combined BTR/NC, top-up

Capacity

Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

- 100 projects in 96 countries, totaling \$168M
- \$45 out of \$75M committed so far in GEF-8
- Countries can request subsequent support

Global Support

CBIT Global Support Program
Thematic CBIT global projects

- CBIT-GSP
- CBIT-Forest
- CBIT-AFOLU+

(as of May 1, 2025)



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CASE STUDY 1: GEF-6 CBIT Rwanda (Phase I): **Nurturing Local Talent for Lasting Impact: Partnerships between Government and Academia Powering Climate Reporting Capacity**



Transparency Barrier:

- ☐ Limited national and regional capacity in transparent climate reporting, leading to an overreliance on international experts to prepare countries' reports.

Interventions by the CBIT Rwanda Project:

- ☐ Strengthening partnerships between governments and academic institutions through MoUs.
- ☐ **2023:** Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) signed a **5-year MoU**, launching the **Evidence-based Climate Reporting Initiative (ECRI)** with CBIT support. **Goal of ECRI:** To strengthen national research and climate reporting capacity by building local technical expertise.

ECRI in Action/Early Results:

Targeted trainings delivered through ECRI to staff from government and non-government institutions:

- A) About **50 professionals trained through ECRI:** Participants drawn from **20+ public and private institutions in Rwanda**
- B) **National capacity built: reduced reliance** on external consultants to prepare transparency reports
- C) **Foundation laid** for long-term, in-country climate transparency capacity

CASE STUDY 2: Regional Capacity Building of COMESA Member States in Eastern and Southern Africa for Enhanced Transparency: **Retaining Expertise Despite High Staff Turnover and Engaging Young Professionals in Transparency**

Transparency Barrier:

- ☐ High turnover of government staff
- ☐ Limited participation of young professionals in the transparency

Interventions by the CBIT Regional Project:

- ☐ Leverage seasoned transparency experts **exiting the government** to continue engaging as **mentors** and **Trainers of Trainers (ToTs)**.
- ☐ Incentivizing government officials to participate in capacity-building activities
- ☐ Incentivizing upcoming and younger experts from state and non-state institutions to participate in the capacity-building activities including the trainings offered through CBIT Projects

Examples of incentives to retain and attract experts:

1. Training programs linked to **practical, real-world applications**.
2. **Formal certificates** issued upon training completion.
3. Recognition of **outstanding trainees** as national Trainers of Trainers (ToTs).
4. Leverage experienced former government experts as **mentors** and ToTs.

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From Project Closure to Continuity: Using Terminal Evaluation Findings and Project Completion Reports to Shape the design of the Next CBIT Project

CASE STUDY: CBIT Uganda Phase I

**This project has already advanced to Phase 2 as the close-out steps below helped to fast-track its design*

Prepare a Project Completion Report

- Highlight the a) remaining capacity gaps and b) opportunities for a **follow-up CBIT project**
- Summarize: Key gaps and challenges encountered, Lessons learned and success factors , recommendations

Knowledge Sharing and Global Learning:

- Share achievements and lessons to enhance transparency capacity globally and support peer learning
- Present project results, lessons and achievements on a webinar convened by the **CBIT-Global Support Program (CBIT-GSP)**
- Upload final project materials and training materials on the CBIT-GSP

Respond to Terminal Evaluation Recommendations

- Upon completion of the evaluation: Develop detailed responses to the evaluator's recommendation and outline clear action points.
- Ensure responses to the terminal evaluation recommendations are integrated in the design of the next phase of CBIT project



CBIT and Enabling Activities: Two funding mechanisms toward a unified objective

Parallel design and integrated implementation to ensure alignment and coherence

FAO is implementing **8 Enabling Activities (EA)** and **28 CBIT projects**, with several more in the pipeline.

In 5 countries, FAO is implementing both EA and CBIT projects, which offers unique strategic advantages.

Parallel Design Enhances Synergy

CBIT projects are tailored to support EA objectives through aligned and complementary planning.

Streamlined Coordination

Joint implementation enables more efficient use of resources and ensures project coherence.

Strengthened Institutional Frameworks

Clear identification of stakeholders allows for targeted capacity building aligned with real-world tasks.

Challenges with Split Implementation

When led by different agencies, coordination becomes a major challenge—affecting coherence, stakeholder engagement, and efficiency.

Country examples

In Bhutan, the two projects were designed in parallel, while in Türkiye, Chile and in Venezuela, EA projects were submitted before the CBIT projects.

Main challenges

Limited Technical Expertise

Many stakeholders lack the technical capacity to effectively define a **Theory of Change**, particularly in **CBIT projects**

Capacity Constraints in Executing Agencies

Difficulty in identifying agencies with strong **managerial capacity** creates a **bottleneck** in speed-up the funding request of both **EA and CBIT projects**.



Global CBIT projects to enhance agriculture and land use



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CBIT-Forest

The CBIT-Forest project directly benefited at least **20 targeted countries** and more broadly some **236 countries and territories** that are part of the global network of National Correspondents for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA). It focuses on:

- developing capacities for open and transparent data at national, regional and global levels;
- implementing innovative global composite learning programmes; (e.g. [NFI online facilitated course](#))
- sharing knowledge and experiences; and
- strengthening and expanding networks with new regional partners.

Web page



[CBIT-Forest II: A visual snapshot of progress on forest data transparency](#)

CBIT-AFOLU+

The CBIT-AFOLU+ aims to strengthen additional **20 countries'** capacity to meet ETF reporting requirements on agriculture and LULUCF, which currently **lag behind in data and knowledge**. The project focuses on:

- Ensuring **engagement** of relevant stakeholders of the sectors in the ETF process and institutional arrangements
- Providing **in-depth technical assistance** to improve these sectors' reporting, which led to effective climate actions
- Developing and refining innovative country driven **content and self-paced tools** to upscale the outreach
- Raising awareness on linkages between NDC, BTR, NAP, L&D, GST, GGA to **reduce efforts and ensure coherence**
- **Partnering** with other IA and Transparency initiatives to address sectors' needs, at country/regional/global level.

38 activities in **26**
countries providing
training to **450** persons

18 events with more
than **1,500**
participants

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See more on [ETF@FAO](#) (available in six languages)



Selecting the most appropriate Executing Partner and implementation modality



Selecting the right implementation modality during project design phase is key and requires a thorough assessment of the Executing Partner's capacities to mitigate project inception and implementation risks, avoid delays and prevent major amendments.

Executing Partner Type:

Government, GEF Agency, Donor Agency, CSO/NGO, Private sector, Beneficiaries, Other



Key Considerations for execution support needs:

- Legislative or regulatory restrictions in the country that prohibit Executing Entity receiving/managing GEF funds;
- Limited fiduciary and/or procurement capacity, including the ability to recruit international consultants or companies;
- Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations (FCS)



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Accessing Technical Assistance for ETF Implementation



Timely access to technical assistance for the ETF is critical in addressing bottlenecks during the implementation and preparation of national reports

Case 1: Technical Support to Guinea-Bissau

Country Case:

Country was working on two different inventories and willing to submit the first BTR by the December 2024 deadline.

How the challenge was addressed:

- UNDP and CBIT-GSP provided technical support to address gaps in the GHG inventory.
- Experts assisted in aligning the country's BTR and NC processes.
- Experts supported the country to link the NDC and the first BTR.

Results:

- Guinea-Bissau, a member of the LDCs and SIDS, submitted its first BTR by the December 2024 deadline.
- The country harmonized its inventory, which will facilitate the preparation of subsequent reporting.
- Country has strengthened its understanding of the MPGs, and the link between BTR preparation and NDC revision.

Case 2: Technical Support to Niger

Country Case:

UNDP technical expert identified an important error in the BTR (NIR and CTF tables), right before the submission of BTR.

How the challenge was addressed:

- UNDP provided technical support to align the NIR with the requirements under the MPGs.
- The expert helped country in correcting the CTF tables for NDC tracking.
- The expert helped strengthen national capacity in understanding the IPCC and MPG guidelines.

Results:

- Niger, a member of LDCs, submitted its first BTR by the December 2024 deadline.
- Country enhanced its understanding of the MPGs and international reporting requirements.

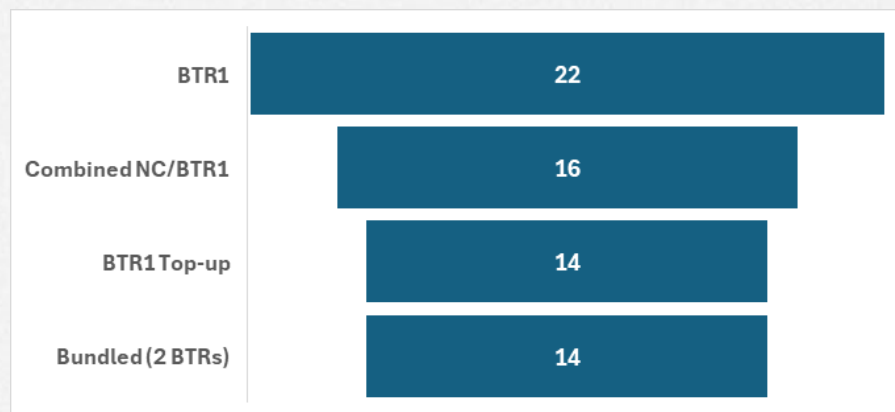


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UNEP's Experience Managing BTRs. Matching country needs to GEF's Policies



(i) BTR Modalities Used by 66 Countries



Reflections: -

Diverse BTR modalities critical during BUR transition

Project Duration: - 52 projects ending 2024/5;

14 bundled ending 2026/7

(ii) GEF/BTR Funding Cycle

Estimated BTR Approval Timelines: -

Expedited: - Single-country & MSP = 3-4 months – GEF CEO

Non – Expedited: - Multi-country - (GEF Council) = Appx. 12 months

A. Applying Different BTR Funding Cycle Options: -

- ❖ 52 projects - (expedited funding proposals)
- ❖ 14 projects - (non- expedited/Umbrella). PIF – to be submitted to GEF Sept, 2025

B. GEF's Policy Changes on BTR Portfolio Outlook

- ❖ More bundled projects
- ❖ Revision of MSP ceiling 2M- 5M (3 bundled within MSP - Expedited)
- ❖ NC/BTR proposal submission while awaiting UNFCCC submissions

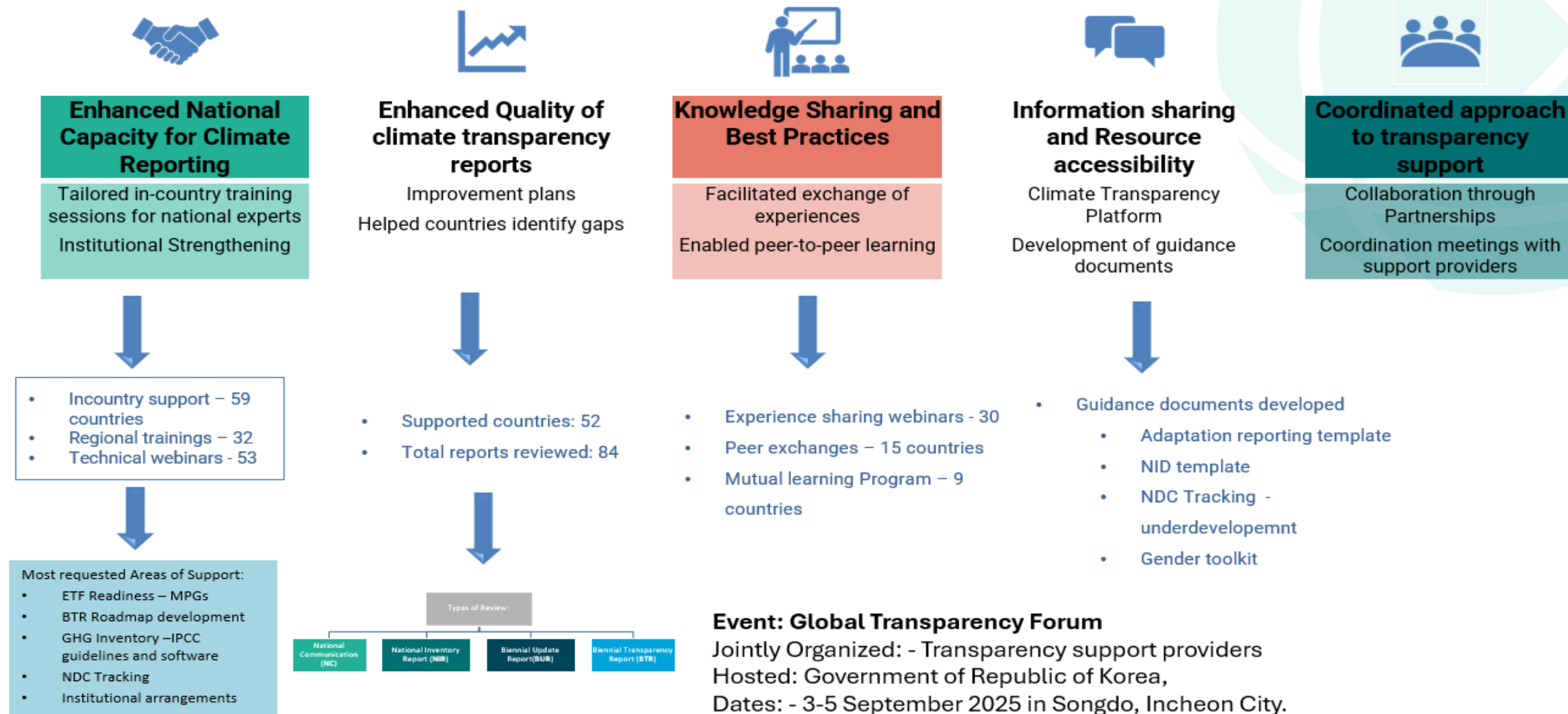
C. Supporting Country teams advance BTR proposal drafting

- ❖ Projects designed to include resources for subsequent proposal
- ❖ A dedicated UNEP team & pre-filled templates
- ❖ Technical review comments considered under amendment, if needed



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CBIT-GSP Impact: Complimenting National ETF Processes (Capacity building & Reporting)



CBIT project in Nepal- Building National Capacities of Nepal to meet requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement



CBIT project an initiative for better decision-making and ensuring national commitments to transparency, collaboration, and climate integrity.

Project Component

- Strengthening national institutions for climate transparency-related activities in line with national priorities & provisions of PA's ETF
- Strengthening national capacity to monitor and report on means of implementation and progress of NDCs
- Enhancing technical capacity to assess, monitor and report the emissions and removals of GHGs
- M&E and Knowledge management

Support and coordinative role from the GEF

- Easily reachable and consistently available to support coordination efforts.
- Played a key role in organizing meetings with country delegates and managing side events at COP.

Building Momentum: CBIT Progress

- Despite initial delays, WWF Nepal worked diligently to ensure the timely completion of project activities.
- Played a key coordinating role and collaborated closely with other GEF agencies (FAO, UNDP, UNEP) to broaden CBIT engagement in Nepal.
- Successfully engaged government in capacity building activities and provided technical supports in preparation of Nepal's NDC 3.0 and Biennial Transparency Report (BTR).
- Developed a draft national MRV framework, which is currently under the approval process.
- Identified key bottlenecks in implementing transparency actions and initiated early discussions on the design of CBIT Phase II.



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Experiences in considering and approving proposals



Key aspects in supporting BTRs



Resource management resulting in increased ETF funding during GEF-8 (+33%) while reducing processing time (~2 months)



Coordination with agencies and partners with the aim to support as many countries as possible in accessing BTR and CBIT funding while avoiding duplication



Continuous revision of our policies and guidelines, including the simplification of the EA template, bundling of reports, and increase of the MSP cap (\$5M)

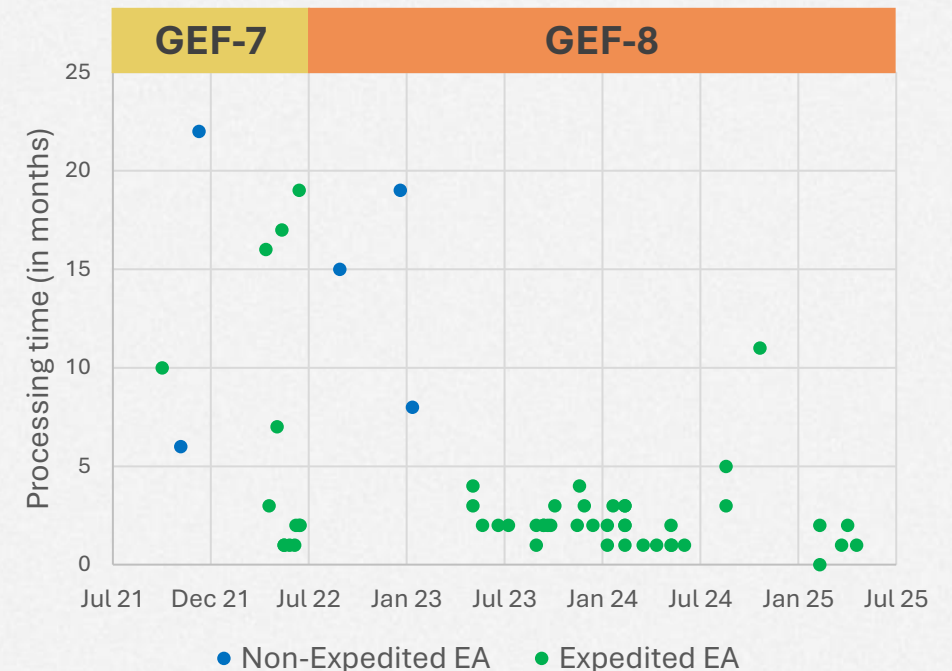


Raising awareness and outreach via online and face-to-face meetings and informational resources, to assist countries in their pursuit for BTR and CBIT funding.



Fostering complementarity between BTRs and CBIT, while leveraging the continuity of support.

*Evolution of BTR review time
(from submission to approval)*



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Burkina Faso experience in preparing its first biennial transparency report

Mominata ELOLA/COMPAORE

18 June 2025

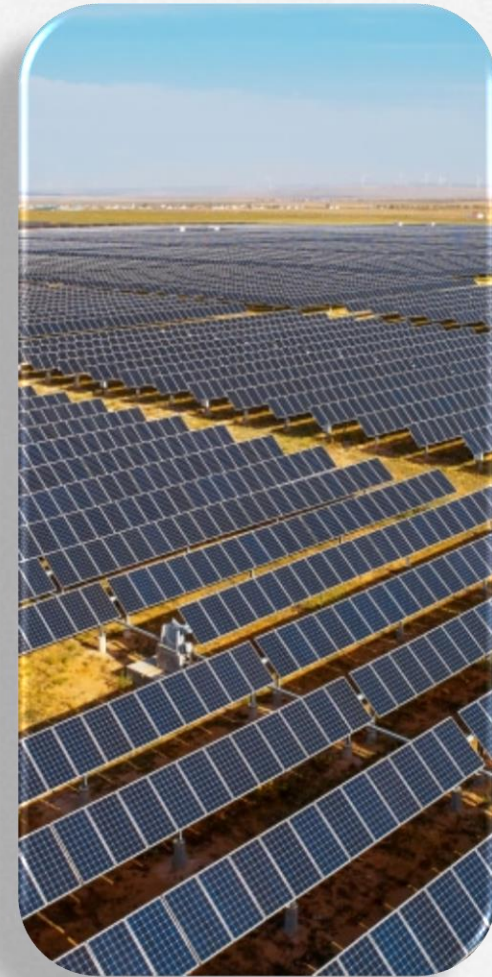
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Preparatory activities

The elaboration of the 4NC coupled with the first biennial transparency report was made possible thanks to these actions :

- Request to the GEF that has been approved
- Drafting and submission of a project with an action plan to support the development of the country's 1st and 2nd BTR
- Approval of this project and the signing of the **PROJECT COOPERATION AGREEMENT** that aims to enabling activities for the preparation of combined Initial Biennial Transparency Report and Fourth National Communication (BTR1/NC4) and Second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2).



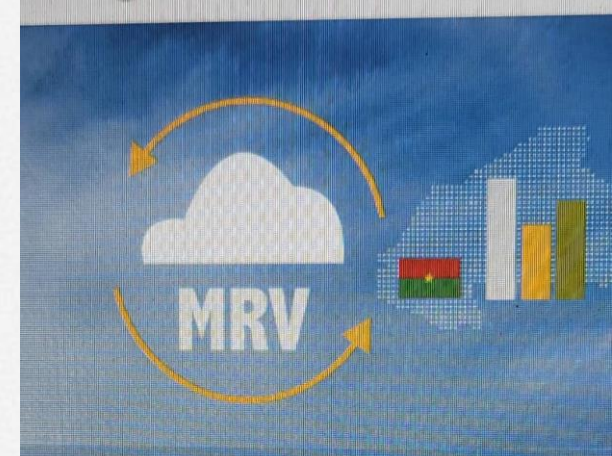
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Methodological approach and steps

Drafting process started with Establishment of the coordination team in June 2023 and launch of the process in August 2023.

The production of the report has necessitated:

- The establishment of a team of experts in charge of the elaboration of the BTR/4NC chapters;
- consultation and scoping meetings with the teams of experts and the coordination team;
- reviews of the available literature in order to have information and data on climate change in Burkina Faso (scientific articles and official reports of the country on climate change);





Methodological approach and steps

- information and awareness-raising of stakeholders with a view to strong adherence to the process and facilitation of data collection. The Transparency framework focal points have been involved, including in collecting part of the data;
- data collection from structures, contacts and during data collection workshops (including the MRV platform we set up for the transparency framework);
- Expert working sessions to facilitate the collection, analysis and processing of data and information.



Methodological approach and steps

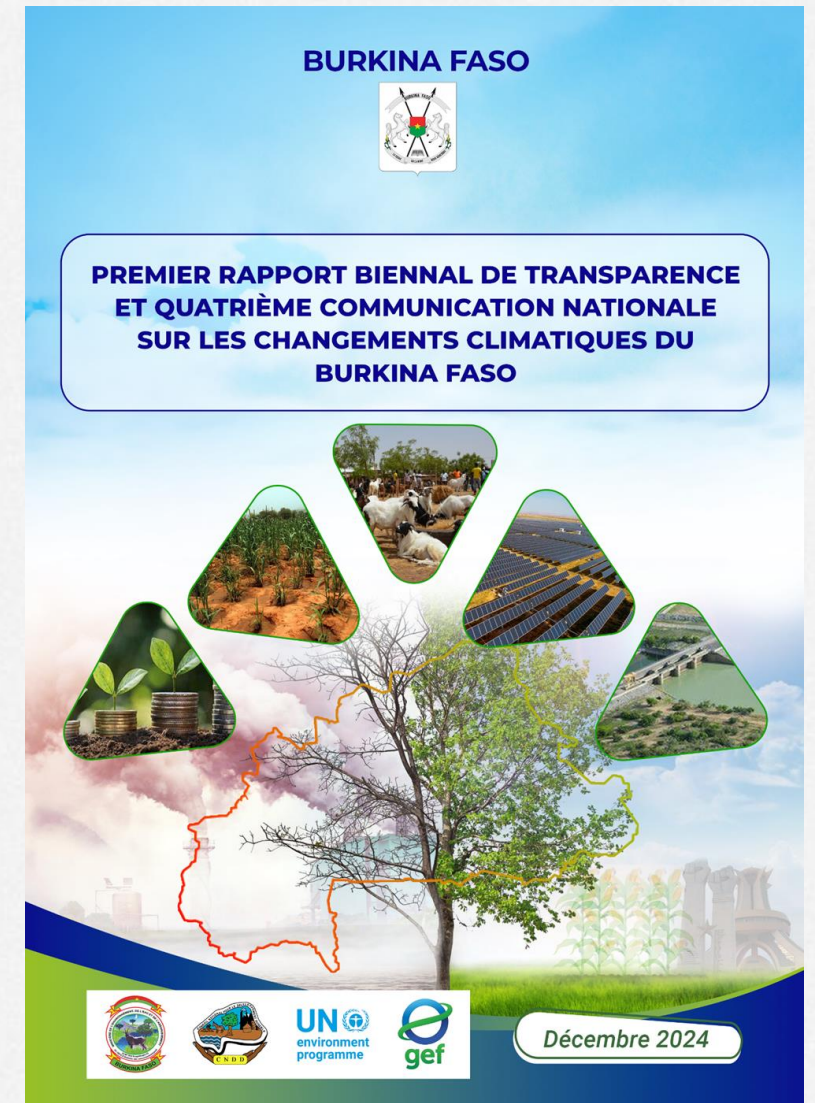
- Development of the document using:

Modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) – Facilitative Tool

Green – mandatory information

Yellow – non mandatory information

Red – information in tabular and/or textual format



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Methodological approach and steps

- Steering committee and process monitoring sessions to review deliverables and provide guidance;
- compilation and consolidation of deliverables by an ad hoc committee set up for this purpose;
- Quality control (by the experts in charge of the BTR/NC and national stakeholders);
- Quality Assurance (UNFCCC and UNEP PSG);
- validation in the national workshop (6 December);
- finalization and submission of the BTR1/4NC (9-20 December).





Application of the MPGs

- **Excellent support for the preparation of the report.**
- **Difficulties in providing information on certain points.** In view of Burkina Faso national circumstances, some information either did not exist or was difficult to collect. The word "shall" meant that the information was mandatory, it was often difficult to provide the information or to specify it. We tried as best we could and as far as possible to provide information or a proxy.





Application of the MPGs

Repetitive information. Under the MPGs, the points present the national situation and the institutional arrangements (e.g. inventory, NDC tracking progress, climate change impacts and adaptation, etc.). In our context, several actions are often taken by the same structure, leading to a repetition of certain elements. On this point, we have tried to circumscribe the information as best as possible.





Fund allocated

- ❑ Funds allocated were only directed towards the development but could not be used for the functioning of the climate transparency framework.
- ❑ Framework set up within the implementation of the CBIT and partially used, in particular for the collection of certain data, but the lack of budget has not allowed all its aspects to be used.
- ❑ MRV decree adopted in 2024 needs to be operationalized for the first 2 years at least for its sustainability.





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Experiences, Good Practices, Challenges and Needs in Preparing 1BTR, China

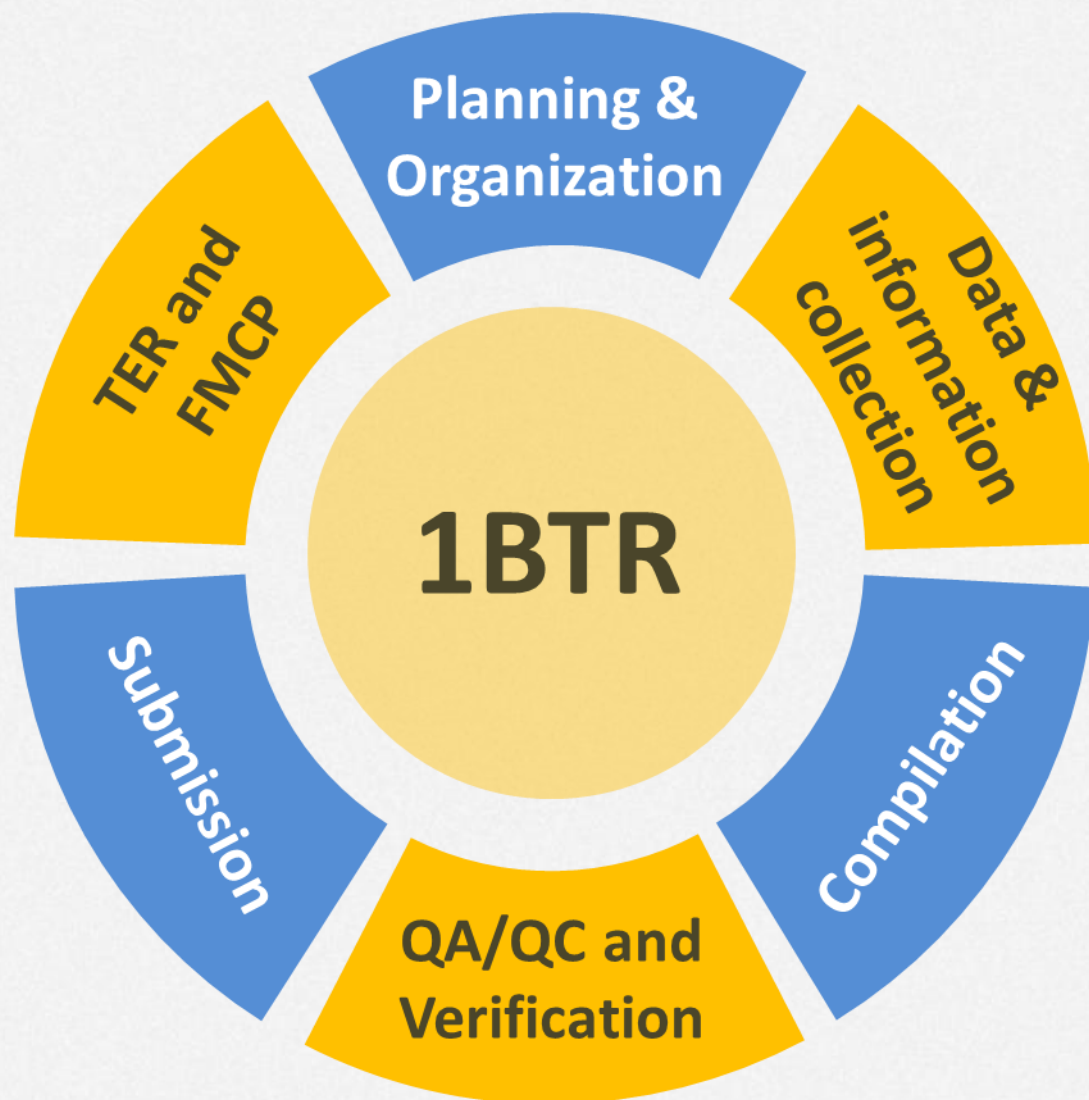
Ms. Beiyang Zhang, NCSC

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Compilation Process



- Enhanced Institutional Arrangements
- Improved Technical Capacities in Inventory Compilation
- Enhance QA/QC in Inventory Compilation
- Support from CBIT project





Experiences and Good Practices

- **Enhanced Institutional Arrangements**
 - Issued Work Plan for IBTR Compilation
 - Established **steering committee** across **over 30 ministries and departments** for more comprehensive data/information collection and efficient report drafting;
 - Significantly **enhanced the authority of information** on NDC progress tracking, mitigation and adaptation policies, as well as support needed and received.





Experiences and Good Practices

- **Improved Technical Capacities in Inventory Compilation**
 - Prioritized the use of **domestic emission factors**
 - Enterprise-level measured data from national carbon market emission reports, measured and statistical/research data developed by relevant departments, and measured/research data published by relevant institutions;
 - Able to apply **higher Tier methods** and **improved the transparency and accuracy** of the National GHG Inventory.





Experiences and Good Practices

- **Enhance QA/QC in Inventory Compilation**
 - Implemented multiple verification and quality control measures during the compilation process
 - Conducted independent analysis and reviews of inventory methodologies and results through **external expert assessment**, ensuring robust quality assurance.
 - Utilized **a national GHG inventory database** to improve digitalization of inventory compilation

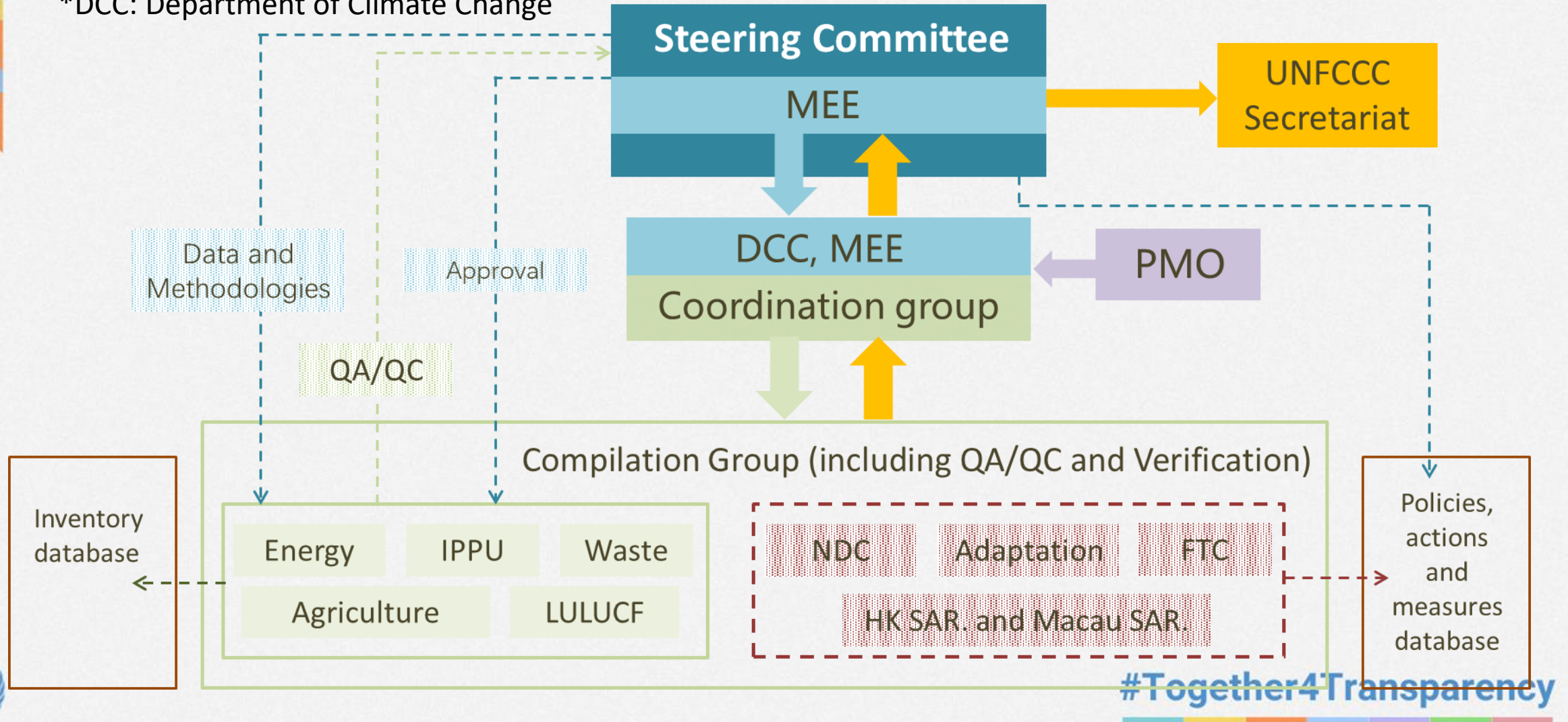


Experiences and Good Practices

- Supports from *China Capacity Building for Enhanced Transparency Phase I* project
 - Improved capacities of transparency experts, **over 70** Chinese experts have passed the examination of Training programs for expert reviewers.
 - Conducted **multi-level capacity building**.
 - Female involvement has reached **80% at the national level** and **60%-70% at the enterprise and local levels** during capacity-building activities



*DCC: Department of Climate Change





Challenges and Needs

- **GHG Inventory**

- Need to further **enhance institutional arrangements** for GHG inventory preparation;
- Need to further clarify the **data foundation**;
- Need to further conduct **domestic GHG emission/removal factors measures** and analysis;
- Need to further strengthen QA/QC;
- Need to strengthen capacity-building in CRT reporting;





Challenges and Needs

● NDC and Mitigation Policies

- Need to **refine GHG emission accounting mechanisms**.
- Need to strengthen the capacities to **assess the effectiveness of mitigation policies implementation**, and to tracking and managing relevant data.
- Need to develop methodologies to **disaggregate emission reductions from overlapping mitigation actions** and improve capabilities to quantify overlapping effects, outcomes, and emission reductions.
- Need to enhance the ability to assess the co-benefits of NDCs.





Challenges and Needs

● Adaptation

- Need to further strengthen capacities and technologies to research on characteristic of climate change already happened in China, and to **construct future climate change scenarios**.
- Need to Improve abilities and technologies to analyze climate change impacts, risks and loss and damage, and vulnerabilities.
- Need to enhance capacities and technologies to **identify adaptation goals, priorities, challenges, and barriers**, and to **monitor, evaluate, and report adaptation policies**.





Challenges and Needs

- **Support needed and received**
 - Need to explore the **establishment of a bottom-up statistic mechanisms, accounting methodologies, reporting and working mechanisms** on the information of received FTC support.
 - Need to develop cost-benefit analysis methodologies to **estimate sector-specific and/or mitigation/adaptation action-specific needs**, improving the ability to identify, quantify, and report on financial support needed and received.





Challenges and Needs

- **Accepting TER and FMCP**
- Need to establish an **inter-department collaboration mechanism**, and to **standardize domestic procedures** for accepting TER and FMCP. By enhancing the participation of relevant departments in TER and FMCP processes, to further identify capacity gaps across areas in implementing Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.





Challenges and Needs

- **Need to establish relevant databases for aspects above.**
- Need to complete the **development, construction, operation and maintenance of relevant national database systems**, including that for inventory, mitigation and adaptation policies, support needed and received, as well as for accepting TER and FMCP.
- Enhance the efficiency of data aggregation and analysis, and strengthen data quality control and assurance functions in databases while building on existing manual processes.





Challenges and Needs

● Barriers in accessing financial support

- To fulfill reporting obligations under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement with high quality and sustainability, **the cost per BTR is at least USD 2 million**.
- The processes for applying and receiving financial support are overly lengthy and complex, resulting in **delayed support** that lag behind the compliance cycles.
- Implementing agencies should continuously improve the transparency and efficiency during the decision-making processes of project application to avoid **stagnation of relevant procedures due to information asymmetry among stakeholders**.





Challenges and Needs

- **Adequate, predictable and sustainable** multilateral/bilateral Financial, Technology development and transfer, and Capacity-building **support** is fundamental for developing countries;
- **Guidance to GEF**: enhance support for developing countries, including establishing national systems and strengthening institutional arrangements, to inform the GEF-9 replenishment discussions; simplify the application procedures.





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Breakout group discussion *(to be followed by report backs and reflections)*

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Breakout group discussions

Breakout group discussion - 45 min

Groups will be arranged at the event. Each group will identify a moderator to facilitate the discussion and a rapporteur to take notes and report back to the plenary.

Report backs and reflections - 30 min in total

Rapporteurs from break-out groups will share a summary of the group discussions





Breakout group discussion

Guiding questions:

1. Drawing from the presentations and your own experience, identify three to five key takeaways from the preparation of the first BTR, including challenges and successful strategies?
2. What solutions have been effective in addressing these challenges, and how can they be further strengthened?
3. Which successful approaches from the BTR preparation and submission process could be replicated or scaled up to support future efforts?





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Key takeaways and closing

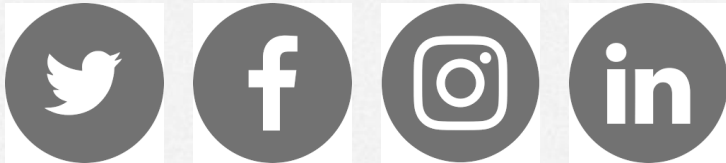
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Thank you for your participation !

We keep you updated via...



Support to developing
countries webpage
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