Capacity-Building Program to Comply with the Paris Agreement and Implement its Transparency Requirements at the National Level

GEF Medium-Sized Project

PIMS+ ID: 6208 – GEF ID: 9967

Quantum Award ID: 00114129.2 – Quantum Project ID: 00114129

Country:	**Ethiopia**
Region:	**Africa**
Focal Area:	**GEF-6 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)**
GEF Implementing Agency:	**UNDP**
Implementing Partner:	**Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)**
Implementation Modality :	**National Implementation Modality (NIM)**
Timeframe of TE:	**December 2023-February 2024**

Terminal Evaluation

Final Report, January, 2024

Elena Laura Ferretti – International Independent Consultant

Acknowledgements

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Special thanks go to the Project Manager for his time in organizing the meetings and timely answering requests for information and to UNDP staff, at both Country Office and Regional level who made themselves available for additional interviews.

May all those who have contributed to the completion of this work find the assurance of my gratitude.

DISCLAIMER

This report has been prepared by an independent consultant evaluator and is a product of the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP. The findings and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of UNDP Country Office or the UNDP Senior Management.

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Acronyms

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Use
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAU	Business as Usual
BUR	Biannual Update Report
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CES-AUU	Centre for Environmental Sciences, Addis Ababa University
CO	Country Office
EFD	Ethiopian Forestry Development
EoP	End of Project
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
IA/IP	Implementation Agency - Implementation Partner
INC	Initial National Communication
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Industry
MoM	Ministry of Mines
MoMs	Minutes of Meetings
MoPD	Ministry of Planning and Development
MoTL	Ministry of Transport and Logistics
MoWE	Ministry of Water and Energy
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Medium Sized Project
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIM	National Implementation Modality
PA	Paris Agreement
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PMU	Project Management Unit
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
SRPC	Sector Reform Performance Contract (EU Budget Support to the Government of Ethiopia)
PRF	Project Results Framework
PSC	Project Steering Committee
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
REDD	Reducing Emission due to Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RTA	Regional Technical Advisor
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SESP	Social and Environment Screening Procedure
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time-bound
TASCA	Tracking and Strengthening Climate Action
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TYDP	Ten Year Development Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNDP/CO	United Nations Development Programme /Country Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present Report constitutes the Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level, an initiative financed by Global Environment Facility (GEF), executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as Implementing Agency (IA), under the National Implementation Modality (NIM), with the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)[1] which has taken the overall responsibility as Executing Agency.

The purpose of the review was to assess the achievement of project results against expectations and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP/GEF programming. The evaluation took place in December 2023-January 2024, working remotely through the Christmas holidays in Europe first and in Ethiopia later. The Consultant believes that findings are relatively well substantiated, based on a comprehensive documental review and interviews with stakeholders. The possibility that some judgements are misled exists; yet, this should be minimal considering the UNDP supervision at local and regional level and the careful triangulation of the information, which is satisfactory and provide a substantial picture of achievements.

Table N.1 Project Information Table

Project Title:	CBIT- Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #):	6208	**PIF Approval Date:**	March 28th, 2018
GEF Project ID (PMIS #):	9967	**CEO Endorsement Date:**	August 6th, 2019
ATLAS Project ID: -Quantum Award ID: **ATLAS Output ID: Quantum Project ID:**	00117265 00114129.2 00114129 00114129	**Project Document Signature Date (date project began):**	Dec., 02nd ,2019
Country(ies):	Ethiopia	**Planned Start Date (as in Pro Doc)** **Date Project Coordinator hired:**	Nov. 1st, 2019 -
Region:	Africa	**Inception Workshop date:**	Oct., 27th, 2020
Focal Area:	Climate Change -	**Midterm Review date:**	March 2023
GEF 6 Focal Area Strategic Objectives and Programs:	GEF-6 Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)	**Planned closing date:**	Dec. 2nd,, 2023
Trust Fund:	GEF-CBIT	**If revised, proposed closing date:**	April, 2nd, 2024
Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Agency):	UNDP Country Office – National Implementation Modality (NIM), with the Ministry of Environment, Forest Commission for Climate Change		
Other execution partners:	N/A		
Financial Information			
PDF/PPG	**At Approval (USD)**	**At PDF/PPG completion (USD)**	
GEF PDF/PPG grants for project preparation	50,000	35,182.18	
Co-financing for project preparation	N/A	N/A	
Project Financing:	**Expected at CEO endorsement (USD)**	**At TE (USD)**	
[1] GEF financing:	1,166,000	1,165,922.47	
[2] UNDP contribution (TRAC resources):	50,000 (Cash)	50,000 (Cash)	
[3] Government: **DGE-SSE**	142,000 (In-kind)	142,000 (In-kind)	
[4] Other Partners: -	-	-	
[5] Total co-financing [2 + 3+ 4]:	**192,000**	**192,000**	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1 + 5]	**1,358,000**	**1,357,922.47**	

I Project Description

The GEF Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Project is designed with the objective to enhance institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency, according to the decisions of the Paris Agreement (PA) on Climate Change and thereby contribute to the implementation of the Ethiopian Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) which aims at achieving a net zero GHG emissions by 2030 through a number

[1] The former Federal Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC).

of abatement opportunities/mitigation actions and a low emission pathway to implement its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), updated in 2021 from its Business as Usual (BAU) scenario to 68.8% by 2030.

As a party to UNFCCC, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is required to report on all its GHG emissions and reduction efforts periodically and Transparently, according to the PA. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts of reducing GHG emissions through the implementation of its CRGE strategy, technical and institutional capacity to comply with the requirements are lacking, overall preventing the financial and technological flows which have been identified as critical to the attainment of its ambitious target of middle-income country by 2025 through its Green Economy development path. The Project seeks to close the existing technical and institutional capacity challenges by enhancing institutional and technical capacities related to climate transparency in Ethiopia.

The Project document was signed on December 2nd, 2019 which is the starting date and was due to close in December 2nd, 2023; due to the delays in starting field activities, the Project has been granted an extension in September 2023 up to April 2024. The Project budget totals US$ 1.358,000 of which US$ 1,166,000 provided by GEF (excluding USD 50,000 for the project preparation grant) and the remaining US$ 142,000 (in-kind) and US$ 50,000 (cash), respectively from the GoE and from UNDP as co-financing. Activities fulfill real needs and barriers, identified during the design phase based on needs assessments conducted by the World Resource Institute under the Tracking and Strengthening Climate Action (TASCA) project as well as in the Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); design is fully aligned with national as well as international requirements to fight climate change and in particular with UNFCCC and of the PA.

II Project Progress Summary

The Project has formally achieved most of its targets by End of Project (EoP); some key results require to be upgraded to higher levels of achievement to ensure the capacity to influence policies and effectively contribute to the establishment of an institutional and legal framework to adhere to the commitments taken towards the PA. The level of effectiveness is satisfactory if the delay in starting the project mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic is excluded and if due consideration is given to the particular institutional context, with a continuous government reshuffling over which management has little control.

Table N.2 Evaluation Ratings Table

1. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	*Rating*[2]	Comment
M&E design at entry	**S**	The M&E plan is standardly designed, as per GEF and UNDP requirements under the NIM modality; M&E tools are set and a budget estimated. Assumptions and risks with mitigation/management measures are identified. The ProDoc reports that a SESP was not required under this type of projects. A low risk rating is set for implementation.
M&E Plan Implementation	**MS**	M&E could have certainly been improved. Management has not instrumentally used all the M&E tools available, as the RTA repeatedly requested in the Project Implementation Reports (PIRs). The narrative in PIRs does not do justice to the significance of the results achieved; it lacks referenced links to the deliverables, and not all sections are dully filled out by all stakeholders. Overall unclarity may have been at the basis of the decision of the RTA to request a Mid-Term Review (MTR), even if not formally required for this project. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is integrated by line ministries' technicians, performing overlapping roles as they plan, approve, implement and oversee their own work; while the EPA focal point plays an appreciated leadership, the presence of UNDP CO on the PSC is infrequent. Although the important training component mostly naturally flows from the requirements of the IPCC 2006 guidelines, it could have been articulated into an assessment of needs and a plan, with subsequent reporting worthy to be well

[2] Rating is provided according to the TE Guidance for UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects, version 2020. The rating scale for monitoring and implementation includes: HS: Highly Satisfactory; S: Satisfactory; MS: Moderately Satisfactory; MU: Moderately Unsatisfactory; U: Unsatisfactory; HU: Highly Unsatisfactory. The rating scale for Sustainability includes: L: Likely; ML: Moderately likely; MU: Moderately Unlikely; U: Unlikely.

		documented. The valuable and strict collaboration with the parallelly implemented EU Budget Support initiative for the establishment of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system could have been well-articulated in planning and reporting. A gender analysis and Gender Action Plan were included in the ProDoc; the attempt was valuable but indicators were so ambitious for the cultural and institutional situation of Ethiopia to translate into planning for failure.
Overall Quality of M&E	**MS**	Management makes valuable efforts to overcome difficulties which are mainly outside of its control but could have made full use of M&E tools. UNDP CO provides adequate assistance at financial level but its presence in the PSC is infrequent which may have been the cause of management approving the decision to financially support the final elaboration of the Third National Communication (TNC) to UNFCCC and the first Biannual Updated Report (BUR) (deliverables under the EU Budget Support), without properly informing and getting approval from higher GEF and UNDP managers. Adaptive management is well-implemented in overcoming technical difficulties.
2. Implementing Agency (IA) Implementation & Executing Agency (EA) Execution	***Rating***	**Comments**
Quality of UNDP Execution/ Implementation/Oversight	**MS**	The NIM modality adopted is adequate; UNDP CO performs needs assessments of financial capacity and provides on-the-go training to support the EPA financial officers. Relationships between UNDP, EPA and management are characterized by mutual appreciation and trust. A stronger role of UNDP CO over the PSC was required. Although the decision to financially support the EU mentioned initiative did not follow the formal procedure, substantially all activities performed fully contribute to the requirements of the PA framework and UNFCCC and did not affect the implementation of other planned deliverables.
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	**S**	The quality of the IP execution is satisfactory. The EPA focal point performs an appreciated leadership, facilitating stakeholders' engagement and coordinating various donors' activities with similar objectives, with their representatives integrated into the PSC. The MRV and GHGs work is well centralized within EPA, where full ownership can be appreciated and the country's diffuse turnover of staff did not manifest.
Overall Quality of Implementation/Execution	**MS**	Technically, within the complex Ethiopian institutional context (continuous government reshuffling, turnover of civil servants and dismantlement of the original CRGE set up), strict collaboration between the Project Manager (PM) and the EPA focal point have ensured an effective leadership for stakeholders' participation, especially but not only for line ministries and coverage of all deliverables. No major financial issues emerged.
3.Assessment of Outcomes	***Rating***	**Comments**
Relevance	**HS**	Project design was relevant and appropriated at design, aligned with strategies and objectives of the GEF-CBIT, UNDP, UNFCCC and PA. The strategy was aligned with national economic/environmental policies at design, the CRGE strategy which fully integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives. Relevance is maintained throughout implementation and interviews generally confirm that although the set up for the implementation of the CRGE has been strongly weakened, the fight against climate change and the implementation of the CRGE endure as priorities. Challenges remain due to endemic difficulties such as the extremely high turnover of civil servants and the need to face internal regional conflicts which absorb public attention and financial resources; yet, the CBIT represents the suitable mean to remove barriers to set up a transparent institutional and legal framework, update the methodologies with which GHG emissions are calculated, and support pervasive training and capacity building needs.
Effectiveness	**S**	By EoP, management has formally achieved most results, with some key elements requiring to be brough up to higher levels of achievement, *in primis* the establishment of an inter-ministerial permanent coordination body which is represented by a technical working group coinciding with the PSC. A part from the conflicting roles played in its function of PSC, this body is integrated by technical staff with no senior manager and targets MRV/GHG work; in practice, it well performs its technical role involving the ministries that have been nominated to work with the CBIT and the MRV/GHG systems but it has not the authority and decision making power to influence climate change related policies which are dealt at higher levels of management within the MoPD. The establishment of the GHG database and information system has been performed in strict collaboration with the EU Budget Support, complementing in an instrumental way MRV activities, with the development of guidelines and the implementation of a large programme of training outreaching not only the federal level but also stakeholders in the

		regions, city administrations, zones and sometimes woredas. Training is generally highly appreciated and remains the key game changer activity in Ethiopia.
Efficiency	**S**	The Project is cost-effective, being well embedded into the EPA MRV Directorate, with the entire EPA team assisting the PM, and EPA coordinating development partners activities related with the MRV and GHG database and information systems. The collaboration of the EU Budget Support has been a major element of cost-efficiency, avoiding duplication of efforts and fully collaborating towards the same scope. Government and UNDP co-financing have been honored, contributing the keep costs low and ensuring continuation even after the extension of the Project up to April 2024, without additional resources. Overall limited financial resources are efficiently used to create synergies and complementarities. The disbursement rate has followed a difficult curve but for reasons generally outside management control. A more instrumental use of M&E tools would have certainly contributed to increase efficiency and inform on key elements which go overlooked such as reporting against the Gender Action Plan and more attention to awareness raising and knowledge management activities.
Overall Project Outcome Rating	**S**	Overall, with limited resources, the Project navigated through institutional difficulties and created the conditions for synergies and collaboration with development partners, with significative results with relation to the context although not being able to influence the establishment of a permanent inter-institutional body to coordinate climate change related activities, backed by law, similarly to other countries. Learning from other countries experiences in the region could be sought.
4. Sustainability	***Rating***	**Comments**
Financial sustainability	**L**	Project design centered on the possibility that achievements in the fight against climate change and in the climate transparency framework could open the interest of development partners with new flows of financial resources, considering the strategic importance of the CRGE and the recognition of climate change as a cross-cutting contributing factor to the economic and social development of the country, which aims at attaining middle-income status by 2025. Ongoing conflicts around the country absorb national financial resources and the recent declaration of Ethiopia as a default country, unable to pay its debt, may affect the capacity to attract donors' investments and should be better analyzed in future months; yet, a second CBIT phase is already in pipeline for which a likely rating is herewith provided. A financial analysis and plan are necessary to identify the provenience of financial resources to sustain the MRV/GHG information systems.
Socio-political sustainability	**ML**	Although the original institutional set up has weakened, interviews indicate that the political will to create a conducive environment to implement the ambitious CRGE strategy and to respond to the PA transparency requirements remain. At present, MRV and GHG activities are dealt by EPA, which is an authority and not a ministry and wider climate change issues are dealt at higher ministerial level. CBIT has worked at technical level, with almost no involvement of senior managers. CBIT did not invest in awareness raising activities and did not involve civil society, NGOs and the private sector in its action. The production of knowledge management material is in pipeline but still lagging behind. More should be done to involve all sectors of society.
Institutional framework and governance sustainability	**L**	The conditions for institutional sustainability were promising at Project start but the dismantlement/downgrading of CRGE units and of the IP through EPA – an authority - instead of the former EFCCC – a Commission – brings about a diminished convening capacity. EPA is not mandated to deal with wider climate change issues and therefore has not the required capacity to influence policies and the establishment of a conducive institutional and legal framework for transparency. Line ministries performance varies, according to the different importance each one attributes to the work of the MRV team/expert, nominated for the purpose. Yet, MoUs between EPA and each ministry have been signed under the EU Budget Support identifying roles and tasks for the MRV. The current technical working group has reached significant results; sustainability much depends on actions to ensure technical availability of staff given the high turnover at all levels of management, training and retraining, adoption of even more updated technologies for the calculations of GHGs and involvement of senior and middle managers so to fully link MRV-related activities with wider climate change issues. The involvement of research centres is valuable and the intention of the Addis Ababa university to create a GHG training hub through its specialized Centre for Environment Sciences should be supported.
Environmental sustainability	**L**	Environmental and climate sustainability are at the heart of the Project's action, in line with international commitments and with the national ambitions to become a middle income country, achieving a net zero GHG emissions by 2030. The more ambitious NDC from the previous 64% GHGs reduction to 68.8% with a 2030 horizon reinforces

		commitment. Awareness raising activities are required as well as documenting, sharing and disseminating experiences and lessons learnt.
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	**L**	Sustainability is built into Project design and should naturally flow from the focus on capacity building and training; yet, the high turnover of civil servants at all levels of management (senior, middle, and technical) and all levels of government (federal, regional, zone, woreda); the government reorganization which has been ongoing for years; and, conflicts in various regions of the country which absorb both attention and financial resources challenge the sustainability of the capacity building/strengthening programme which was implemented with relative success and satisfaction of stakeholders. On the other hand, the strict collaboration with other climate-change projects, the EU Budget Support *in primis* but also the UNDP Deep Dive&Climate Promise through the leadership of the EPA MRV Directorate contribute to sustainability. Management has been able to do the best possible given the country's political complexities. Sustainability much depends on actions taken in the upcoming CBIT II to sustain current achievements and a stronger involvement of senior management.

II Concise Summary of Conclusions

Project design is a direct answer to needs identified in the Second National Communication to the UNFCCC and in the TASCA World Resources Institute project and certainly responds to national and international requirements. The Project started with considerable delay due to the outburst of the COVID 19 pandemic and government instability. Delay has been quite efficiently recuperated and all deliverables are ready, although with different levels of quality and certainly also due to the unusually strict collaboration with development partners which created synergies and complementarities and was well coordinated under EPA. A wide training programme has been implemented, outreaching to different levels of government stakeholders; guidelines for GHG calculations, Quality Assurance/Quality Control procedures and partly for integrating needs into the budget have been prepared. In strict collaboration with the EU Budget Support, a GHG database and information system is established, a key element for feeding the MRV system. All activities contribute to improving the country's capacity to respond to national and international mitigation, adaptation and transparency climate change requirements.

The manifestation of **Impact** is incipient; capacity building and the availability of guidelines allowed these to be adapted to sectors and utilized to produce GHG calculations reports for regions or city administration; work is in progress and conditioned on the importance attributed by each ministry to the tasks. Limited resources have been well utilized to create synergies with other development partners, especially the EU, with overall significative results within a rather weak institutional context; yet, the possibility to create a permanent inter-institutional body to coordinate climate change related activities is challenged by the lack of involvement of decision makers and the technical working group existing is unlikely able to produce an impact on policies and on the institutional and legal framework. More needs to be done to ensure the larger participation of the NGOs, civil society and the private sector. The participation of women in trainings and consultations remains below equity. Barriers are still present and the already approved, at least at conception stage, CBIT phase II could come to continue the much needed training and capacity development component while trying a more incisive action on the legal and institutional framework.

IV Lessons Learned and Recommendations Summary

The CBIT Project has generated in Ethiopia a number of useful lessons for the country but also for the region, especially for those countries sharing similar objectives for their climate change transparency systems.

L.1 Government reshuffling always poses challenges; working at technical level diminishes the capacity to influence policies and the setting up of an institutional and legal framework but still allows steps towards creating the conditions to effectively answer commitments under the UNFCCC and PA framework. The Project has been able to achieve results because activities are implemented through a technical working group with enough capacity to take decisions; yet, this diminishes its capacity to influence policies and the institutional and legal framework. These are processes that in any case take time and requires continuous support.

L.2 Collaboration among development partners under the full ownership of the government is a key for success. The collaboration between the CBIT Project and the EU SRPC has allowed creating synergies and complementarities, reaching out where one project alone would not have been successful. Full ownership and coordination of the EPA was a *conditio sine qua non*. The experience is extremely valuable and should be given appropriate dissemination.

L3. The fight against climate change is a cross-cutting issue for which transparency is paramount and requires a large consultative process at government but also at non-government level, with an effective leadership. Impact is manifesting because EPA is fully appropriate of the actions proposed and effectively promotes collaboration and dialogue across sectors at technical level; yet, the national dialogue requires to be brought up to leadership level and involve all sectors of society, including civil society and the private sector.

L.4 The link between gender and climate challenges remains not widely understood. It is not enough to establish targets in the PRF to ensure gender equity; in climate change related projects, all parties should be well aware that climate data needs to be gender-disaggregated as the consequences of climate change are worse on women than on men and this aspect should be at the centre of the decision-making process. Establishing targets disconnected from the context only leads to planning for failure.

Recommendations are tailored to improve the sustainability of the CBIT actions, provide inputs for the upcoming CBIT Phase II, already in pipeline and, share experiences to inform the design of similar projects.

Table N.3 Recommendations

N.	Recommendation	Responsible entity	Timeframe
A	**Design – Management - Monitoring & Evaluation**		
A.1	**Ensure full adoption of all monitoring tools available and greatly improve the narrative and the construction of PIRs.** Writing in English may have prevented an improved narrative in PIRs but more can be done to make these reports fully informative, well-referencing deliverables with appropriate links and providing well substantiated ratings.	Management and UNDP CO	For final report and future projects
A.2	**Ensure the PSC is well participated and independent from the implementing partners.** Planning and implementing are roles which should be separated from oversight. The PSC should be well-participated by all members identified, including UNDP CO, and perform its guidance role.	Management and UNDP CO	For future projects
B	**Sustainability**		
B.1	**Continue training but also open to awareness activities.** Training and re-training is a must in Ethiopia and it is not even necessary to make it a recommendation as well considered at all levels. If conditions open for induction and high-level training for decision-makers, the opportunity should be taken. Awareness raising should target the wider society, with civil society, NGOs and the private sector at the forefront. Documenting and sharing experiences is required in-country and within the East Africa region.	EPA/Management	Future projects
B.2	**Move the dialogue from EPA on the MRV/GHG systems to embrace the overall national dialogue on climate change at leadership level, increasingly opening to civil society and the private sector.** Results of the existing technical working group are undeniable but the work should be upgraded to the wider climate change, involving decision-makers and opening to the private sector and civil society as partners in development. It is not a question of creating too many inter-ministerial bodies but to empower it with the necessary capacity to influence policy, the institutional and legal framework and provide the right level of leadership to ensure a credible MRV and quality control system for sharing information and data across institutions well linked to mitigation and adaptation policies.	MoPD/EPA	Under the current politics and other ongoing and future climate-related projects
B.3	**Develop a financial analysis and financial plan for sustaining the MRV and GHG database and inventory systems.** Actual work to identify needs in terms of budget support is outdated and should be finalized, including ways to support the MRV and the GHG database and information systems with due consideration for the economic difficulties of the country, recently emerged.	EPA/Management	Possibly a solid outline before project's end
B.4	**Keep track of people trained.** Considering the high turnover of civil servants and the important resources invested in training and capacity development, trained people should be evaluated and potential candidates be part of a structured list to be able to recall people at any time in the future	EPA/Management	Before Project end

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Evaluation Purpose

This document is the Terminal Evaluation (TE) report of the Project Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement (PA) and implement its transparency requirements at the national level, in Ethiopia. Financing is provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT), with co-financing by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP Country Office (CO) is the GEF Implementing Agency (IA), and through a National Implementation Modality (NIM), the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), Federal Environmental Protection Authority[3] (EPA) is the Implementing Partner (IP). As a Medium-Sized Project (MSP), it is subject to a TE under the GEF Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) policies and procedures.

2.2 Scope of the Evaluation

The purpose of the TE is to assess the achievement of results against the expected objectives and outcomes, establish the project's success or failure in meeting its goal and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of GEF and UNDP programming. The Project started operations on December 2nd, 2019, date of ProDoc signature and was expected to end in December 2nd, 2023; an extension has been granted with the new closing date being April 2nd, 2024.

2.3 Methodology

The review has been conducted home-based, with virtual interviews in December 2023-January 2024 by the international consultant Elena Laura Ferretti. The TE report was elaborated in accordance with UNDP and GEF guidance, rules and procedures, in particular the Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-financed Projects (version 2020 (https://erc.undp.org/pdf/TE_GuidanceforUNDP-supportedGEF-financedProjects.pdf) and the TORs (Annex A).

The TE aimed at collecting and analyzing data in, as much as possible, a systematic manner so as to ensure that findings, conclusions and recommendations are substantiated by evidence. A TE Inception Report was produced in December 2023. The approach below describes actions developed in four phases: Preparation Phase; "Virtual Interviews" and Analysis Phase; Draft Reporting Phase; and Final Reporting Phase. The rationale of the Consultants' approach included:

i) A qualitative evaluation based on the analysis of primarily secondary data, documents and information collected (Annex B), including the Project Results Framework (PRF), the M&E system, the Mid-Term Review (MTR, undertaken in March 2023) and interviews with stakeholders and Key Informants (the schedule & people/institutions interviewed is Annex C);
ii) An analysis based on the evaluation criteria described in the ToRs, in accordance with UNDP-GEF guidance and policies, and Evaluation Questions (**Annex D of the TE Inception Report**) elaborated for this project, together with an Interview Guide (**Annex E of the TE Inception Report**) with findings articulated under: Project Design/Formulation; Progress Implementation; Project Results and Impacts; Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned, and with consideration for gender inclusion; Risks for sustainability were thoroughly analyzed.

[3] Before the Government restructuring which followed the installation of the new Government in 2020-2021, the IP was the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC), a Federal Institution established in 2015 for managing the environment in Ethiopia; the EFCCC has been reorganized as EPA under the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), but the legal regulation of this body is still pending Parliament's approval.

iii) An evaluation based on long-distance interviews with stakeholders, both individually and through focus groups discussions, which overall allowed stakeholders to express their perspective on how activities answer real needs and their perceptions about the long-term possibility for impact and sustainability; an online demonstration of the functioning of the Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system set up was provided by the information technology team of EPA;
iv) A well-prepared desk phase, with sufficient days devoted to the preparation of complementary interviews and study of documents to allow smoother interactions with stakeholders.

2.4 Data collection and analysis

As described above in the methodology, the TE is an evidence-based assessment, relying on data collected mainly through documents and information (Annex B) which were analyzed and triangulated with feedback obtained through interviews with people involved in the design and implementation of the Project; full consideration was given to the MTR Report. Evaluation Questions (**Annex D of the TE Inception Report**) refer sources of information and the methodology of analysis used. The Inception Report was submitted in December 21st, 2023, according to requirements.

2.5 Ethics

The evaluation is based on the UNEG Ethical Guidelines for Evaluators: Integrity, Accountability, Respect, and Beneficence (https://www.unevaluation.org/document/detail/2866); Annex D is the Evaluation Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement form duly signed. All information provided by stakeholders is kept confidential (i.e., not citing without their permission, staff not present during the interviews), engaging with the interviewees in a way that honors their dignity, well-being, personal agency and characteristics, honesty, truthfulness, impartiality and professionalism in communication.

2.6 Limitations to the Evaluation

The process has been participatory, with a good number of people interviewed, both individually or as a focus group, and including representatives of key partners and government institutions, UNDP staff and government and non-government key informants involved in the development of specific Project's items as well as a few representatives of development partners. The Project Manager (PM) and UNDP staff facilitated contacts for meetings and interviews, which developed without major constraints. Some critical elements to be considered in reading this report:

- clearly, the subtle interactions between stakeholders are definitely less easy to appreciate from a distance and when the language spoken is not the mother tongue for none of the parties. Notwithstanding, the support of PM, of the Regional Technical Advisor (RTA), an in-depth interview with a development partner and an already well-developed MTR report enabled a quick understanding of the context and the conduction of interviews with the EPA's team and line ministries. The possibility that some judgements are misled exists but all considered should be minimal and the number of stakeholders contacted, either individually or through focus groups, and the triangulation of the information are satisfactory and provide a substantial picture of achievements;
- as usual in development projects, the extent to which impact is manifesting requires time and the general difficulties of "attribution" during the analysis of effects/impact is evident; different donors and projects contribute to the same objective, either in mere co-financing or for implementation; in this case, the CBIT Project has been implemented in parallel with the EU Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC) – also refer to as EU Budget Support, through such a strict collaboration to be somehow difficult to separate the effects stemming from one or the other initiative; later on, other climate-related projects came to complement the CBIT; as, all of them are dealt by the EPA focal person and through the Project Steering Committee (PSC), complementarities and mutual support are created more than shortcomings.

Overall, the collection and triangulation of data and information can be considered appropriate to sustain findings, thus providing reasonable evidence of progress towards objectives; stakeholders were collaborative and able to contribute to the analysis of the context, confirm data and information and discuss outcomes achieved. Focus groups discussions and open sessions served also as exchanges of opportunities for stakeholders to interact and learn from reciprocal experiences.

2.7 Structure of the Report

The TE draft report was submitted on January, 17th, 2024, following the format suggested by the UNDP-GEF TE guidelines, with a description of the methodology, a description of the Project and findings organized around: i) Project Design/Formulation; ii) Project Implementation; iii) Project Results and Impact. Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned complete the report. Consistently with requirements, certain aspects of the Project are rated, according to the rating scale of the Guidelines. Co-financing information is presented in the chapter under financial management; the updated Tracking Tool file and the co-financing report are in separate annexes. Based on comments received on 06th and 26th February, 2024, the final report was completed and delivered on February 29th, 2024. Comments addressed have been documented in an Audit Trail, prepared as a separate annex to the TE Report.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Development context

Socio-economic context. Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing countries in the world, with an annual economic growth of approximately 11% and an ambition to achieve middle-income status by 2025 through accelerated growth, which is likely to double the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from the baseline year 2010 of 150 Mt CO_2e to approximately 400 Mt CO_2e by 2030. The socio-economy situation is challenged by the need to control internal conflicts in various regions as well as by frequent severe weather events; the long-term impacts of climate change which undermine agriculture and pastoral livelihoods as well as food security and of the conflicts which absorb financial resources affect lives, livelihoods and infrastructure.

GHG Context. Information coming from the recently prepared Third National Communication (TNC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the first Biannual Updated Report (BUR) and well summarized in the mentioned MTR, reveal that Ethiopia's total national emissions in 1994 were 108,333 Gg of CO2e which increased to 368,835 Gg of CO2e in 2018, that is around 240%. A significant portion of Ethiopia's overall GHG emissions come from the Agriculture, Forests and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector activities - CO2e emissions in this sector in 2018 was 334,579.8 Gg (over 90% of total emissions). Within the AFOLU sector, the majority of the overall emissions came from the livestock subsector (44%) with enteric fermentation methane (CH4) followed by the land use and forestry (30%). Ethiopia's livestock population is the largest in Africa, with 60 million cattle, 31.3 million sheep, 32.7 million goats, 1.4 million camels and 56.9 million poultry. On the removal side, the AFOLU sector is crucial, as it removed 108,422 Gg of CO2e in 2018, with net GHG emissions attributable to this sector at 226,157 Gg of CO2e. Government interventions on the land subsector such as afforestation, reforestation, and forest restoration have contributed to the removal of GHG. Next to the AFOLU sector, the energy sector accounted for about 7% of the total emissions. The burning of liquid and solid fuel takes up the largest share of energy sector's GHG emissions, followed by the CO2 emission from the transport sector (48% of the total CO2 emission of the energy sector). Other sectors (namely waste, the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), construction) contributed nearly 3% of total CO2 emissions in 2018. There is a growing rate of waste generation, especially in the urban areas due to population increase, urbanization and industrial development, and thus an increase in GHG emissions from the waste sector. From 1994 to 2018 the GHG emission from waste generated (in cities) nearly trebled increasing from 1565.59 Gg CO2-eq in 1994 to 4656.82 Gg CO2-eq in 2018. Total aggregate emissions for the IPPU sector ranged between 200.102 Gg CO2-eq and 3747.846 Gg CO2-eq during the period 1994 to 2018 - the cement industry is responsible for 97% of the aggregated emissions followed by lime production (3%). The mitigation options identified in the AFOLU sector are divided into three categories; livestock, land/forestry and agricultural crops sub-sectors. The primary IPPU sector mitigation options focus on emissions from cement production. Waste sector mitigation options include: implementing an integrated solid waste management programme (source reduction, reuse/recycling, composting, and waste to energy programme), promote sanitary landfill, improve fecal sludge management system, implement integrated wastewater treatment systems, enhance sewer line connection, and promote zero liquid discharge.

Institutional Context. The key government body to address environmental and climate change issues is the EPA, the reorganized EFCCC (see footnote 3) after the installation of the last Government, which is however still waiting its formal regulations' approval by Parliament. As a party to the UNFCCC, the GoE is required to report all its GHG emissions and reduction efforts periodically and to adhere to the PA Transparency Framework. In terms of its international engagements towards transparency, over the years a number of actions and institutional reforms have been implemented. Ethiopia has ratified the UNFCCC in May 1994, the Kyoto Protocol on February 2005, and the Paris Agreement on 2017. Before the implementation of this CBIT Project, it submitted two national communications to UNFCCC: the Initial National Communication (INC) in 2001, the Second National Communication (SNC) in 2016. All sectors in the INC and SNC applied Tier 1 of the IPCC default values. During the development of the CBIT, in collaboration with other development partners, and specifically the European Union (EU), the first BUR and the TNC were submitted to the UNFCCC, both in July 2023. With a horizon to 2030, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) was upgraded in 2021 from

the previous 64% to a more ambitious 68.8%. Although as a non-annex country, Ethiopia is not obliged under the UNFCCC to reduce its GHG emissions which accounts for a negligeable 0.5% world contribution, the country is still willing to and making efforts towards GHG emissions reduction through its green growth policy and low-carbon development pathway. Several initiatives with the potential to contribute to achieve the middle income status goal by 2025 and to climate change mitigation and assessment measures to reduce GHG emissions have been identified; the GoE adopted the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) aiming at achieving a net zero GHG emissions with a reduction of 250 Mt Co2e by 2030 through a number of abatement opportunities/mitigation actions and a low emission pathway to implement its NDC.

Financing context. The objectives described above will necessarily require massive capital injections and employment of technological advancement, and international cooperation support. During the development of this TE, Ethiopia has become the third African country to formally default on its debt, after missing the deadline to make a US$33M interest payment on its only international bond (Financial Times, December 27, 2023). After seeking debt relief in 2021 due to pressures from the coronavirus pandemic and the conflict in the northern Tigray region hampering economic growth, the economy is under great pressure, with an annual inflation rate of 28%, foreign currency shortages and growing debt repayments. Expectations are there for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) program to support negotiating a comprehensive debt treatment through the G20's common framework.

3.2 Problems that the project sought to address: threats and barriers targeted

Notwithstanding a number of measures taken to strengthen the national institutions to implement climate change related initiatives, the conditions to establish a Reinforced Transparence Framework (RTF) as per PA requirements, managing and operating a solid MRV to monitor the NDCs progress, provide information to the UNFCCC and contribute to the countries' collective efforts to reinforce transparency on the reduction of GHGs, Ethiopia still faces enormous challenges.

Ethiopia's institutional capacities for an enhanced MRV framework for NDC reporting were assessed through an initiative funded by the German Government to the World Resource Institute (WRI MAPT) which produced the *Mapping of Ethiopia Institutional Capacity: Assessment of Key Actors and MRV Needs of CRGE* (exercise conducted between 2012 and 2014)*;* major weaknesses in the country's readiness to comply with the PA and implement its transparency framework were evidenced here. Although the CRGE strategy is grounded on the PA and all institutions are required to embrace both the CRGE as a national strategy and the PA of limiting the GHG emissions, many national institutions appeared not to have the required knowledge and awareness about Ethiopia's commitments to the UNFCCC and to the PA Transparency requirements. Major barriers identified in the ProDoc and deriving from these assessments and from the indications of the National Communications included:

i) Technically: lack of technical skills within line ministries and key sectors to undertake comprehensive and robust GHG emission inventories, in accordance with the MRV framework; and the inadequate availability and quality of data for inter-sectorial climate change-related policy planning, a barrier reported to be endemic throughout key sectors. Overall, this constrained both planning for GHG emissions as well as their monitoring and reporting in a coherent manner.
ii) Institutionally: lack of a strengthened oversight body to coordinate GHG emission inventories and report in the most transparent manner; lack of clarity on the roles and responsibilities of the key line ministries and sectors in GHG emissions, with overlapping mandates and role confusion, resulting in gaps and inconsistencies; lack of established mechanisms for data sharing between public/private institutions and for collaboration with research bodies. The absence of an inter-institutional system for data homogenization and harmonization, monitoring and reporting made that data sharing fragmented and inconsistent, lacking an agreed method of data collection, with established timeline to collate, monitor and report on GHG emissions. Overall, the lack of homogeneity and delays in accessing and compiling data were significantly hampering national efforts for an enhanced transparency system.

iii) Financially: inadequate resource allocation for establishing the MRV and developing dedicated MRV tools and equipment across the relevant sectors, as required by the IPCC guidelines.

At Project start, this situation meant that: i) the current GHG inventory was not complete according to the new IPCC 2006 guidelines; ii) as identified in the SNC, legislation gaps inhibited coordination and commitment amongst the relevant stakeholders to MRV GHG emission in a transparent manner; iii) inability to mobilize required resources estimated in USD 150 billion to achieve its CRGE as this was strictly linked with the will and actions to transparently report on climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Ethiopia CBIT Project is conceived as the right instrument to close these existing technical, institutional and capacity gaps, creating an enabling environment and a platform for coordinating, accompanying and consolidating the activities already taken by the country in collaboration with other development partners to establish the conditions of a reinforced transparency framework, including the preparation of the first BUR, the optimal monitoring of the NDC progress as well as of its performance on green growth projects and programmes. Incidentally, as the BUR requirements involve reporting the GHG emission as per the IPCC guidelines, this CBIT project involves coordinating all activities, ensuring that all GHG emission sectors are covered. Importantly, by ensuring transparency on climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, the country intends to attract both financial and technological flows for achieving the green economy.

3.3 Objectives, Outcomes, Results and Project's Strategy

The Ethiopia CBIT Project is implemented over a period of 36 months from December 2019 to August 2023; however, as a consequence of the late start of field activities, the Project has been granted an extension, up to April 2024; its budget totals US$ 1,358,000 out of which US$ 1,166,000 from GEF, and US$ 50,000 (cash) and 142,000 (in-kind) respectively from UNDP and the GoE as contributions.

The CBIT Project Purpose is to "*Enhance institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency in Ethiopia*". Two Components and two Outcomes are envisaged, expected to jointly deliver 9 Outputs (described in the PRF matrix, reporting progress of implementation):

Component 1 Institutional capacity development
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional capacity for transparency-related activities.
This Component/Outcome focuses on contributing to strengthen the country capacity on Transparency. The strategy is to facilitate the establishment of an inter-ministerial body and work on definition of clear roles for the institutions while developing the GHG emission inventory database.

Component N. 2 Technical capacity development tools, training and assistance
Outcome N. 2.1: Strengthened technical capacity for transparency-related activities, including tracking of progress towards attaining ENDC.
This Component/Outcome focuses on addressing issues of skill development and enhancement within relevant institutions as critical in meeting climate transparency requirement as per the Paris Agreement.

As a party to UNFCCC, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is required to report on all its GHG emissions and reduction efforts periodically and Transparently, according to the PA. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts of reducing GHG emissions through its CRGE, technical and institutional capacity to comply with the requirements are lacking, overall preventing the financial and technological flows which have been identified as critical to the attainment of its ambitious target of middle-income country by 2025. The Project seeks to close the existing technical and institutional capacity challenges by enhancing institutional and technical capacities related to climate transparency in Ethiopia.

The Theory of Change is simply and coherently developed in the ProDoc, with a strategy supporting the creation of an interministerial mechanism for wide line ministries participation in developing a robust GHG

database and Information System to feed the MRV system; develop guidelines and implement training activities on technical aspects of the IPCC 2006 software and subsequent amendments:

i) Institutionally: an updated mapping of the institutions involved in implementing the NDC as well as the creation of an adequate institutional framework to support the process of emissions reduction and resilience improvement; this requires coordination and management of various stakeholders within an appropriate institutional framework operating both at international and national level;
ii) Technically: a sustained increase of the local expertise and of the awareness level by reinforcing technical human capacities, developing adequate tools, methodologies and platforms and equipment availability to implement a transparency framework, involving different sectors for implementing the NDC;
iii) Financially: improving access to financial resources linked to climate change, which has long been impeded by the social and economic difficulties arising from a decade of political and military conflicts. Transparency remains the key element for accessing climate change related international financing and this project is to bring about an important change in this sense.

Overall the Theory of Change assumes that the reinforcement of the key national institutions and stakeholders and the provision of tools, methodologies and training will contribute to improve the transparency framework and consequently the modalities to collect, store, manage, and monitor climate change related data, thus ensuring the respect of international commitments, including the provision of information as required at the UN international level.

3.4 Project Key Partners and Implementation Arrangements

The Project is delivered through the UNDP CO of Ethiopia adopting the UNDP NIM implementation modality, with the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD), through the Federal EPA being the IP as it was established as the national coordinator for the GHG Inventory development process and provides the necessary administrative and logistical support to ensure an efficient and sustainable GHG Inventory Management System and National Communication processes. At Project start, the IP was identified in the EFCCC, now reorganized in the current EPA. The IP is responsible and accountable for managing the Project, including the M&E of its interventions, risk management, achieving project outcomes, and for the effective use of UNDP resources in procurement of goods and services and management of human resources. Supported by the UNDP CO, the IP is responsible for: approving and signing the multiyear workplan; approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and, signing the financial report or funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

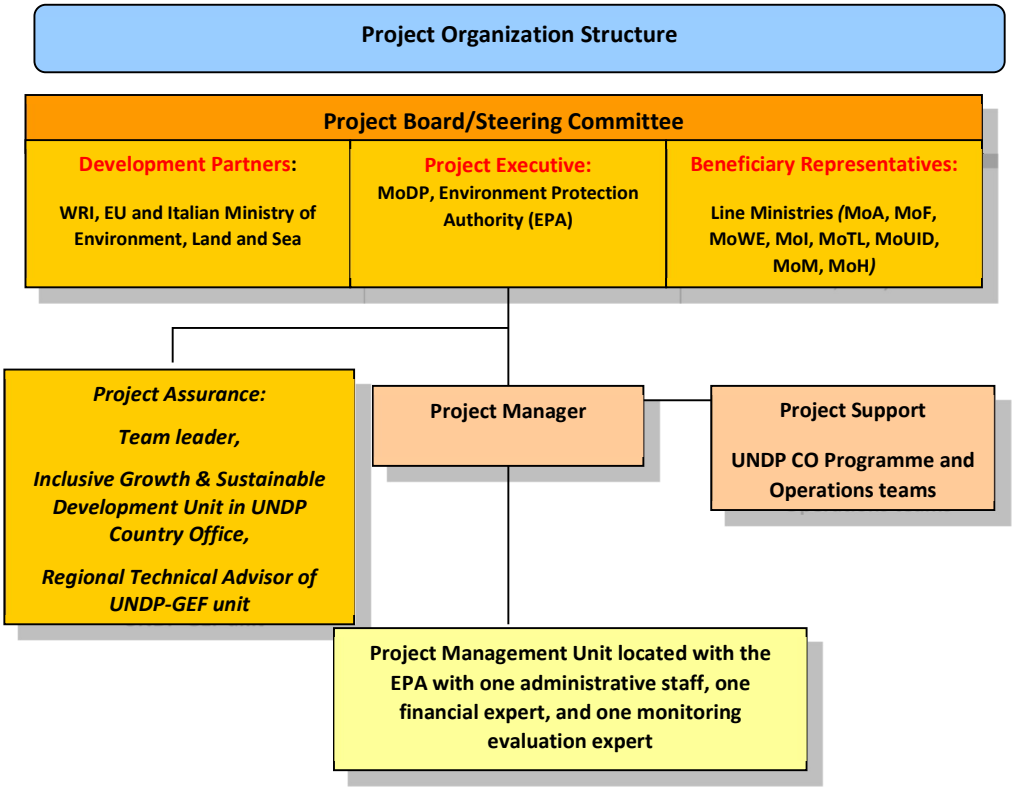
UNDP is the GEF IA and provides a three-tier supervision, oversight and quality assurance role, including the achievement of project results, financial execution and the submission of reports according to UNDP and GEF requirements. The UNDP CO takes responsibility for standard GEF project cycle management services and oversight of project design and negotiation, for ensuring monitoring, periodic evaluations, troubleshooting, and proper use of UNDP/GEF funds and reporting to the GEF. UNDP provides high-level technical and managerial guidance and Quality Assurance through the UNDP RTA, as needed and completely independently from the Project Management function. Financial transactions, reporting and auditing are carried out in compliance with established UNDP rules and procedures for NIM.

The CBIT Project is implemented at federal level and was supposed to work with the CRGE implementing offices. Strategic guidance is provided by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) or Project Board, which is jointly chaired by the MoPD/EPA and UNDP and comprised of key line ministries; the ProDoc identified development partners - WRI, EU and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea[4] - as members;

[4] This Italian Ministry was created in 1981 and abolished in 2021 with the creation and replacement of the Ministry of Ecological Transition.

effectively only the EU representative has been present; the PSC regularly meets once a year or more if required and is responsible for approving strategic interventions and corrective actions, policy guidance, controlling the use of resources and approving reports and annual operational and financial plans. It includes:

- Co-President, Representative of Environmental Protection Authority;
- Co-Chair, UNDP Representative;
- Representative, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA);
- Representative of the Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD)
- Representative, Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE);
- Representative, Ministry of Finance (MoF);
- Representative, Ministry of Industry (MoI);
- Representative, Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure Development (MoUID);
- Representative, Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MoTL);
- Representative, Ministry of Health (MoH);
- Representative, Ministry of Mines (MoM);
- Representative from EU SRPC.



The Project is located at the office of the EPA and a Management Unit (PMU) has been established for daily management of project activities, administered by a full time PM, assisted by a Finance Officer but also supportive by the entire EPA team, in particular the Administrative and M&E Officer. The PM is a different person from the one representing the IP in the PSC.

3.5 Project timing and milestones

The Project Identification Form (PIF) was approved on March 28, 2018; the Project document received the GEF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) official endorsement on August 6th, 2019 and was signed on December the 2nd, 2019 which is the Project starting date. The Inception Workshop took place on October 27th, 2020, after almost one year and therefore not within the three months period since project's start, as required. The planned closing date was December 2nd, 2023, after a 36-months period; due to a late start of field activities,

an extension has been granted, up to April 2nd, 2024. Three PIRs have been prepared. Although not required under GEF rules for Medium Sized Projects (MSP), an MTR was implemented in March 2023, at the request of the RTA. The TE was initiated in December 2023 and completed in January 2024, with the release of the present TE Report.

3.6 Main stakeholders: summary list

The Project supports the meaningful participation and inclusion of a large number of public institutions and research centres; also development partners are fully involved during design, implementation and M&E of activities. Instead, the participation of civil society and the private sector is almost non-existent.

At Project start, all ministries had a CRGE Unit, often at Directorate level, which was to be used also to channel and address climate-related issues; with the installation of the new Government, a restructuring process started in 2020 - somehow still uncomplete – which suppressed or downgraded various of these units. Therefore, the Project works with the technical experts nominated to specifically deal with the MRV and related issues.

Key stakeholders are involved early and throughout execution as partners for development, so as to capitalize on their comparative advantages, create synergies, strengthen a holistic, and resilient construct of interventions, and improve legitimacy. The main stakeholders/partners are summarized in the table below:

Table N.4 Project Stakeholders and Partners

Stakeholder	Role and link to CBIT
Environmental Protection Authority, MRV Directorate (previous Environment, Forestry and Climate Change Commission - EFCCC) under the Ministry of Planning and Development	EPA is the body replacing the previous EFCCC, established as the national coordinator for the GHG Inventory development process: it provides the necessary administrative and logistical support to ensure an efficient and sustainable GHG Inventory Management System and National Communication processes. EPA is under the new MoPD, which hosts both the UNFCCC and the GEF focal points; it is the nodal agency for the CBIT Project, required to coordinate and reporting on the government climate change efforts in accordance with the PA transparency requirements. The CRGE is dealt by the MoPD at higher level, together with wider climate change issues.
Ministry of Finance (MoF) (CRGE Facility)	MOF is linked to the project through the CRGE Facility; it collaborates with the EPA on climate change related projects and programs as well as for the overall cooperation and leadership
Ministry of Agriculture (CRGE Unit)	This is the major emitter of GHG in the country and therefore, interested in ensuring that emissions from the agriculture sector are recorded, consistent to IPCC 2006 guidelines. The stakeholder was interested in capacity/skill development for GHG emission inventories. During government restructuring, its climate change directorate was abolished to form a simple climate change team. Currently work is based on the AFOLU sector (Crops, Livestock and Land).
Ethiopian Forestry Development	An autonomous deferral institution stemming from the previous Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institution and the EFCCC. Currently work is based on the AFOLU sector (Forestry, Land Use and Land Cover Change)
Ministry of Water and Energy (CRGE Unit)	It is one of the emitters in the country through energy and land use changes (irrigation), directly linked to CBIT for the need for capacity building on MRV of GHG emissions. It is one of the sectors where there are cost-effective mitigation measure and therefore interested in capacity development for evaluation of mitigation projects and mainstreaming the support into national budget. Work focuses on Energy sector.
Ministry of Transport (CRGE Unit)	Transport sector is one of the major consumers of petroleum products and where there are feasible mitigation projects to reduce GHG emissions. During Government restructuring, its climate change unit was abolished and merged with the Strategic Affairs Executive Office. It is linked to the CBIT for capacity development on MRV, emissions, evaluation skills to assess the mitigation projects/efforts. Work focuses on Energy sector.
Ministry of Industry (CRGE Unit)	IPPU is one of the main sectors under the IPCC 2006 emission guidelines. It is key to strengthen this stakeholder with skill development and institutional arrangements to be at the forefront of MRV, for compliance with the PA. Work focuses on IPPU.
Ministry of Urban Development and Infrastructure (CRGE Unit)	Waste is one of the main emitting sectors under IPCC 2006 guidelines. Technical skill development to MRV GHG emission is required to comply with the PA. Work focuses on Waste sector.
Ministry of Mines (CRGE Unit)	It requires capacity building and skill development to facilitate an enhanced environment for accurate MRV emissions calculations and management. Recently, the CRGE Unit which was dismantled in 2022 when the number of experts were reduced and the Environment Directorate abolished, is being reorganized. Work focuses on minerals and related data.
Ministry of Health (CRGE Unit)	This stakeholder is one of emitters of GHG through the use of chemicals and therefore, directly linked to CBIT through capacity development and institutional reforms to ensure improved GHG emission Inventories. Currently, collaboration is based partly for the waste sector and for air pollution.
Space Science & Geospatial Institute	Also a receptor of training and capacity development, the work with this stakeholder focuses on Forestry, Land Use and Land Cover Change.

National Metrology Institute	Provider of meteorological data, it is an important stakeholder.
Central Statistics Service	A key stakeholder for providing GHG data at national level.
Civil Society Organization	CSO are the stakeholders who represent the communities and they have vested interest in environmental sustainability. Therefore, through their advocacy for environmental sustainability they are linked to the CBIT to ensure that reported GHG emissions are reflective of the situation on the ground. However, their participation is practically non-existent.
National Universities: Addis Ababa University, Centre for Environmental Sciences; Haramaya Univ. ; Adama Science and Technology Univ.; Wondo Genet College of Forestry	These are institutions of higher learning and train personnel in various fields such as physics, atmospheric sciences and also on climate change. As institution of skill and capacity development, they have been brought in to provide capacity development on various aspect of MRV.
Development Partners	A strong collaboration with the EU and to a minor extent with the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea was envisaged. WRI participated in the initial assessment of capacity needs.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Project Design/Formulation

Project design is relevant and appropriate; it focuses on meeting a critical and well-identified gap in the country's capacity to transparently comply with the commitments taken with the NDC within the framework of the PA, involving the key emitting sectors and line ministries both in decision-making and in strengthening their capacities to meaningfully contribute.

The PA calls for transparency in reporting GHG emissions and removals using internationally agreed MRV systems and methodologies that countries can use to estimate GHG inventories. The existing MRV framework encompasses submitting national communications every four years and biennial update reports every two years. With the PA, requirements have increased dramatically and the GoE needs a robust and extensive MRV system. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts towards reducing GHG emissions through its CRGE strategy adopted in 2011, it lacks proper technical and institutional capacity to adhere to the PA framework. This challenge makes it much more difficult for the country to access critical financial and technological flows to attain its ambitious target of reducing GHGs while striving towards a middle-income country status by 2025, objectives reconfirmed in Ethiopia's Ten Years Development Plan (TYDP).

The CBIT Project represents a great opportunity for the country to increase technical capacities and build the necessary institutional framework to support the accurate and transparent monitoring and reporting of emissions factors in key identified sectors in order to manage and reduce GHG emissions. Chapter 4.4.1.1. Relevance below documents the alignment of the Project with GEF, UNDP as well as with Government priorities and strategies. Building upon and linking with other initiatives, defined activities contribute to achieving the SDGs. Other project outputs will also indirectly and directly contribute to the BUR.

Financial incentives are designed and targeted in such a way as to optimize the generation of Global Environmental Benefits (GEB), by responding specifically to the nature and magnitude of current flows of costs and benefits. Through improved institutional arrangements, reinforced technical and organization MRV capacities and better policy planning, the implementation of the CBIT Project importantly contributes to the global fight against climate change. As the Government moves towards a green economy, activities leads to direct and indirect environmental benefits by: i) reducing deforestation, increasing afforestation, reducing GHG emissions, improving ecosystem services and waste management, developing more ambitious and reliable NDCs for Ethiopia; ii) positively impacting in the areas of mitigation, capacity building and finance due to the effective implementation and monitoring of the NDCs; and iii) adopting a tracking system for NDCs more in line with Art. 13 of the Paris Agreement for transparency.

4.1.1 Results Framework Analysis: project logic and strategy, indicators

The CBIT Project lays out the drivers of the capacity weaknesses in relation to the UNFCCC climate change transparency system requirements, the problem to be addressed and its root causes. The approach is solid and has maintained relevance over the years through the establishment of a GHG database and Inventory System; preparing specific guidelines and Quality Control & Quality Assurance (QC/QA) procedures for determining sector specific national emission factors, base-year emissions, the most likely emission scenario and estimating GHG emission effects ex-post; the Project focuses on building and strengthening institutional and technical capacity for coordinating activities and managing the system. The strategy is well aligned with national priorities, considering the objectives of the CRGE and of the TYDP as well as the cross-cutting nature of climate change across the sectors identified in these strategies. The strategy is also fully aligned with the CBIT objectives of the GEF. The nodal agency to carry out these activities is correctly identified in the EPA.

The PRF (see Annex E) is clearly designed upon a straight-forward ToC in terms of objective and outcomes; however, the description of the outputs is often redundant, often loosing clarity. **Two outcomes** corresponding to **two components** are envisaged, contributing to the objective of the CBIT Project, overall

expecting to deliver **9 outputs**, reasonably well connected through logical linkages and designed to help the country to enhance its institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency.

Component 1 Institutional capacity development

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional capacity for transparency-related activities aims at establishing a **Permanent inter-ministerial body/commission** to provide leadership and oversight for the implementation of the NDC and for the PA transparency requirements: this involves studying (a background study) and defining (through a series of workshops) in a public document the roles and tasks of this body in strengthening and coordinating cooperation among public, private, research and civil society sectors; the document would provide the legal status for this body to become part of the national climate governance and perform its role beyond the CBIT Project life for stakeholders mobilization, collaboration and coordination within the common objective of the transparency initiative. Activities include: Advocacy and lobbying; Technical Support (**Output 1.1.1**); **Clearly define roles and tasks of stakeholders** for the implementation of the PA Transparency Framework, limiting inefficiencies and duplication of functions by adding tasks to the workload of existing institutions without a clear mandate for tracking and monitoring GHG emissions and implementing the MRV; collaborating and completing the activities of other donors/projects (i.e. WRI-Tasca; EU-SRPC; and Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and SEA (ICAT), the CBIT Project is to design potential areas for strengthening institutional coordination, including a clear and efficient process of data and information sharing and a systematic procedure for ensuring that climate and MRV concerns are successfully integrated into national priorities and policies. Activities include: Advocacy and lobbying; Technical Support to prepare a subsidiary instrument such as a guideline or a directive to foster coordination and partnerships towards reducing costs, boosting effectiveness and eliminating the risk of gaps or duplication of functions; Workshops (**Output 1.1.2**); **A National System for GHG emissions inventory with a functional GHG database and Information System** where institutions have flexibility but aligned within an overarching governance structure which will boost the generation of climate change-related data in a way to be easily integrated in GHG inventories (format, standards), with information which is reliable in terms of quality and periodicity, aligned to the requirements of UNFCCC and IPCC. Data will have to undergo data quality assurance to reduce the current data quality uncertainty and make them suitable for inter-sectorial climate change-related policy planning. A user-friendly web-based and GIS-embedded communication and feedback system is envisaged for managing all NDC information and data collected from the energy, IPPU, AFOLU, waste and other sectors activities in a transparent manner. The online system is to be linked to several websites such as government ministries and serve as a central repository for public information in line with the Ethiopian law on Information sharing act (**Output 1.1.3**).

This component focuses on strengthening the inter-institutional capacity to operate, with a clear definition of roles and tasks and setting up a national system for GHG emissions inventory.

Component N. 2 Technical capacity development tools, training and assistance

Addressing issues of skill development within relevant institutions is critical in meeting the PA transparency requirements. Thus, this work is an extension of component 1 as personnel skills within the institutions will be the enhanced. This component provides impetus for strengthening a platform to meet PA requirements.

Outcome N. 2.1: Strengthened technical capacity for transparency-related activities, including tracking of progress towards attaining Ethiopian NDC aims at developing guidelines for GHG emission mitigation policy measures which will help prioritize mitigation actions and achieve cost effectiveness. The analysis of capacities revealed a lack of staff and expertise for tracking and monitoring GHG emission in relevant institutions, although an MRV Directorate was being created in the EFCCC (currently EPA); lack of trained staff and of a training mechanism is identified as a limiting factor to be addressed through inter-ministerial collaboration and building capacities in the main public and private emitting sector, including the federal states to develop mitigation policy measures effectively (how to set mitigation goals, estimate of baseline scenarios, define accounting methods, compute allowable emissions, track and report progress, verification and reporting). These policy measures should stimulate investment in working towards a climate resilient net-zero emitting economy, and they can be sector specific, can be implemented at city, regional and federal levels and can be complemented by the private sector, civil society organizations and local community groups (**Output 2.1.1**); guidelines for mainstreaming mitigation projects cost into public budgets and reporting processes: despite activities supporting increased access to climate finance and the existence of a mechanism for cross-ministerial collaboration with each ministry hosting a CRGE Unit, progress was slow and the priority given to these units was uneven, depending on the specific ministry. A collaboration between the CBIT and the TASCA project is envisaged to provide technical support to the ministries and sectors on the development of practical approaches and methods that inform climate and development planners on financial planning and budgeting for mitigation projects; through workshops and technical assistance, a final document with methods on quantification and integration of support needs

into the public budget system and reporting the effective utilization of the support received will be prepared and submitted to the inter-ministerial body for approval and guidance (**Output 2.1.2);** developing training material on PA and transparency to ensure expertise in sectoral ministries regional states and city administration; needs in this sense were identified during the elaboration of the SNC to UNFCCC together with the need for a systematic collection of data and information to prepare BURs and for implementing MRV systems for planned mitigation actions; this is to be done through workshops, review of lessons learned from similar projects and IPCC guidelines on transparency; capacities are to be built for NDCs, NDC tracking, NCs/BURs reporting obligations and the establishment of a transparency framework at various levels: sectoral ministries, regional states, city administrations through a phased training program (**Output 2.1.3)**; training manpower on IPCC 2006 guidelines to widen and improve the quality of the GHG data collection, especially in the most relevant sectors, in particular IPPU, AFOLU ad Energy; this will be done drawing lessons from WRI developed case studies from other countries and regions on data management and information systems, institutional arrangements and national systems to support sub-national GHG inventory; it is paramount to regularly involve sub-national entities in data collections for GHG emissions which has been missing for lack of resources and technical expertise. Conforming to the IPCC 2006 guidelines require widening data collection, different disaggregation of data and different methodologies for collecting specific sectors data (**Output 2.14**); developing guidelines through much needed training on the use of the new 2006 IPCC guidelines (with respect to 1996) at relevant ministries and universities (**Output 2.1.5**); and developing QA/QC guidelines/procedures, involving national universities to support the competent authority on undertaking uncertainty analysis for a comprehensive improvement of the GHG inventory (**Output 2.1.6**). This component provides the necessary tools and trainings to strengthen the country's capacity for collecting, managing and monitoring GHGs and climate change related data supporting decision-making and reporting towards its international commitments.

The Project objective and the two outcomes are clearly formulated. Outputs generally flow logically but the description of activities is often redundant and unclear. Overall, 9 Indicators are identified: two at objective level and the rest divided among the two outcomes; mid-term targets are not identified and further efforts should have been done to define the baseline, possibly with reference to activities implemented under the CRGE strategy and under the EU Budget Support which was about to start; at least this could have been done at Inception stage when the picture was clearer and complementary initiatives defined. Targets are simply expressed, mostly as a quantitative measure. The interest focuses on the involvement of institutions and beneficiaries in project activities and trainings, with one of the two mandatory indicators at objective level referring to the scaling up of solutions for sustainable management of natural resources, which is not directly in line with the CBIT project. The Inception Workshop validated design and during project implementation no indicator has been discussed or revised. The SMART analysis (whether indicators are sufficiently Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) reveals that:

- **Objective level**: **Indicator 1** requests to assess how solutions for sustainable management of natural resources are scaling up. As also identified by the MTR, this indicator is misplaced; not only it refers to overall efforts in the country on sustainable management of natural resources, which is beyond the scope of this Project, but it does not directly flow from the activities of the CBIT and does not express - as it should - a measure of how the construction of a solid institutional framework and the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities are setting the basis for the improved collection, verification and monitoring of GHG data and information to track progress of the country's NDCs and to implement plans, strategies and policies, including budgets which overall contribute to lower emissions and achieve a more climate-resilient development. The indicator is also too wide, encompassing all sectors. This is a lost opportunity for better reporting on the progress of this CBIT project: changing a mandatory indicator in a GEF project is a long and difficult process over which management usually do not embark but in the end reporting on such an indicator becomes a constraint which reduces the capacity for critical thinking and reporting on progress.
- **Indicator 2** refers to the direct number of beneficiaries/staff - disaggregated by gender and by institution – involved in transparency-related initiatives through the Project. The MTR assesses this indicator as redundant as already expressed under the outcome indicators, especially indicator 8 under outcome 2. This is partially true because: i) most CBIT projects are designed in a way to include an indicator at objective level expressing the number of beneficiaries involved; and ii) it is not limited to training as under indicator 8 but encompasses all transparency-related initiatives and therefore becomes broad and more interesting if reporting is done accounting separately beneficiaries of trainings and beneficiaries participating in

consultative processes and awareness raising events. The gender component is set without a specific target, expressing for example an eventual equity basis.

- **Outcome 1**: **The three indicators of Outcome 1** are SMART. **Indicator 3** clearly expresses both a quantitative and quality indicator to have a permanent, inclusive and well-functioning inter-ministerial body; the baseline here could have referred to the presence of a similar entity used for the elaboration of the CRGE, considering that at the time a suggestion to make it permanent had been expressed. **Indicator 4** clearly expresses the number of line ministries to be involved in the implementation of the MRV as the analysis of capacity's needs had clearly indicated the most emitting sectors in terms of GHGs and which ministries are consequently involved; considering the duration of the Project, the high turnover of civil servants and the fact that capacity development/strengthening is always a process, it will be difficult for ministries' staff to become fully conversant; yet, the target should not aim at less considering that training should be extended to enough people to avoid that turnovers of staff causes **Indicator 5** well expresses the target but should be clearer on the effective functioning, IT maintenance and financial/institutional sustainability of the database to feed the MRV system.
- **Outcome 2.1: The four indicators of Outcome 2.1** are SMART enough and well-tailored to assess the elaboration of clear guidelines (for the MRV in **Indicator 6** and for integrating support needs in budgets in **Indicator 7**) and the establishment of QA/QC procedures and uncertainty (**Indicator 9**) as well as for the quite important training component towards appropriation in the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines for the collection of GHG data and for the inventory and implementation of the MRV (**Indicator 8**). **Indicator 8** fails to express a gender target; yet, management still correctly records the gender representativity. Considering the importance of the agricultural and forestry sectors as emitters and the evidence that climate change has even worser consequences on women than on men, it is paramount to ensure that climate data are collected on a sex-disaggregated basis; this should be reflected on the PRF on a different way than for the participation of women to trainings and processes. For the elaboration of the guidelines instead, evidently it is not the number of methodologies developed that make the difference but their efficacity, soundness and user-friendliness.

Overall, the Project construction is solid but redundant and not fully straight-forward in the description of the activities of each output; it remained unaltered during implementation, even if one of the key indicators at objective level is not SMART enough to express what is sought through the ToC.

4.1.2 Assumptions and Risks

The Risk Management section of the ProDoc simply and repetitively identifies risks; overall, four risks are identified but both 1 & 3 and 2 & 4 could be combined. Instead, there are a number of other risks which have not been considered in the risk log but are detailed under the assumptions in the PRF and which are added in the table below, after risk 4, as a proposal of the evaluator. Risks are mainly of an institutional/ organizational/ political nature with no social or environmental risk identified at project development stage, considering that no forced displacement or relocation may occur and that environmental benefits are indirectly attended more than any risk likely to materialize.

As per standard UNDP requirements, risks should be updated and systematically recorded in the UNDP Quantum Risk Strategy[5], in line with the UNDP's enterprise risk management policy. Assumptions within the PRF are identified: they are related with risks, are mostly pertinent but could have been defined in further detail to better serve as a guide to evaluate the capacity of the Project to produce effects and impacts.

Given the institutional and capacity building nature of the Project, no environmental risks are identified and the ProDoc on its first page indicates that the Project is exempted from preparing a Social and Environmental Screening Process (SESP). A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is attached to the ProDoc as Annex F, with the objective to identify all stakeholders' priorities and needs and establish procedures for their involvement and consultation. The primary stakeholders are identified in the line ministries and the universities to be

[5] The previous ATLAS system is replaced by the Quantum platform.

involved in the QA/QC processes; national regional states and city administrations are also identified. NGOs are said to be an important partner in capacity development for the transparency framework but in the development of the Project are not involved. Development partners are also key stakeholders.

During project implementation, additional risks materialized but there is no evidence in PIRs that the risk log has never been updated. Risks associated with the coronavirus pandemic, the high turnover of civil servants and the ongoing government restructuring, the unstable internet line in public offices are not identified, but these are all causes of implementation delays. The recent declaration of default for Ethiopia may challenge the sustainability of the activities implemented which are tailored to address additional financial flows as well as the expected socio-economic benefits which are instead instrumental for the economic transformation. Overall, the risk rating in PIRs has always been considered Low. For the purpose of this TE, some of these risks are included below in the Summarized Risk Table N.5, with TE comment.

Table N.5 Project Risks and Management Measures

PROJECT RISKS					
Description	**Type**	**Impact & Probability**	**Management Measures**	**Owner**	**Status & Comments from t**
1.Existing human resources lack necessary/basic knowledge on MRV and not easily trainable, with the risk that the training programme will not have the impact desired for the institutions to monitor and report GHG in compliance with the PA.	**Organizational**	P=1 I= 5	-Select personnel with adequate background on MRV and GHG emissions inventory.	EPA	-Identified at Project develo minimized by the selection trained directly conducted b -This is also identified at the various levels
2.Lack of buy-in from the stakeholders which could impede the project to be fully implemented	**Political**	P=3 I=5	Continue lobbying and advocating for the project clearly demonstrating its potential in attainment of the national objective of middle-income status through implementation of ENDC and CRGE strategy and also as an opportunity for attracting investment and technological flow.	EPA	-Identified at Project develo advocacy and lobbying activ -This is also identified at the various levels.
3.Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient human resources	**Organizational**	P=2 I=4	-A major part of the project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, monitoring and reporting GHG emissions -Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted to work with and train local technical staff. -A dedicated PM will be assisted with short-term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.	EPA	-Identified at Project develo with the objective and is re expressed in this table. -This is also identified at the various levels -Instead, it is not clearly def and continuous turnover of salaries, which is a main imp created.
4.Insufficient willingness to implement the tools for technical skill development for MRV	**Organizational and political**	P=2 I=4	-Strong consultative process and awareness raising will be conducted to raise concern and interest of line ministries and federal states on the potential benefit of the project to the national level particularly attainment of middle-income status and attracting investment and technological flow		-Identified at project develo somehow a repetition of th table. The project has imple and lobbying to counteract -This is also identified at the various levels
5. Lack of available data to assess the quality of GHG inventory.	**Institutional**	P=3 I: 3	-Involvement of key institutions in charge of statistics and development planning; -Involvement of the private sector; -Specify roles/missions when defining institutional arrangements to ensure a swift exchange of data; -Build on existing IS to facilitate data exchange/access	EPA and ministries	Identified in the PRF, it assu assess the quality of GHG in of available data which indi what is the quality of those when a system is newly cre of needs in assessing trends -The best counteracting me line ministries, especially ke
The **Coronavirus** was not identified as a critical health risk in PIR. Delays of implementation were likely.	**Operational/ Health**	P=5 I=5	Social isolation measures implemented by the Government, repercussing on meetings to be organized and slowing down procurement of goods and services.	EPA Project Manager	-COVID 19 pandemic is not is considered the main caus delay. Virtual meetings have internet line in public office
Limited access of women to Project's benefits and opportunities.	**Social**		The risk is managed through dedicated actions to ensure women participation on an equal basis.	EPA/ Project Manager	A Gender Action Plan has be excessively ambitious in its

4.1.3 Planned stakeholder participation and Gender responsiveness of Project design

Project design promotes the participation of diverse stakeholders in the consultation, capacity development and training activities as well as in the design and validation of guidelines and QC/QA procedures, encouraging an enabling environment for active engagement in the management of climate change related data and information. Annex F of the Pro Doc documents in the SEP the various stakeholders involved and their roles as well as the proposed strategy for engagement in activities, meetings, validation workshops. The project emerged through a process of consultation with the EFCCC MRV Directorate which was invited to comment on the proposal developed by a UNDP hired consultant. Documents and interviews confirm that different stakeholders have been involved at planning/design stage to ensure an adequate understanding as well as identification of the required partnerships for the successful implementation and sustainability of proposed actions. As usual in this phase of projects, most meetings were held with the IP representatives (the previous EFCCC) and a few other ministries but not necessarily with all stakeholders identified and part of the PSC. Yet, ministries' roles and participation in the Project are well identified at cross-sectoral level, clearly showing the importance of the transversality of actions for addressing climate change issues. The mentioned EU Budget Support was being developed at the same time as the CBIT Project for establishing the MRV system, conduct capacity building and generating and collating GHG data based on IPCC 2006 guidelines; interviews conducted by the MTR evaluator and confirmed by the TE evaluator suggest that there was no consultation with the EU at this initial stage as instead happened later during implementation. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has also worked in Ethiopia through its global CBIT-AFOLU project, with similar objectives for strengthening the transparency and integrity of GHG data in the AFOLU sector. FAO is also the technical lead on providing support to the GoE on the National REDD+ strategy which aims to deliver large part of the emission reduction and carbon removal targets of the CRGE strategy in the forestry sector, working with the World Bank. Overall, as the AFOLU sector accounts for the largest emission/withdrawals and the EU Project had very similar objectives, consultation at planning stage with these development partners could have helped build synergy. Notwithstanding the Inception Workshop was implemented virtually, the list of stakeholders reveal a modest participation, limited to the public sector.

GEF-financed projects require gender equality to be integrated in project design and implementation (2014 report on Gender Mainstreaming in GEF). UNDP has translated the GEF commitment on gender integration and mainstreaming in its own UNDP Gender Strategy 2018-2021 (the third such strategy), which provides guidance on how to integrate gender in all UNDP supported activities. The UNDP Gender Marker for this Project is rated as GEN2: *Gender equality as a significant objective*. Parties to the UNFCCC also recognize the importance of gender-responsiveness and equality in climate related policies; a dedicated agenda item is included in the Convention and has been included also in the PA. At design, the ProDoc includes a Gender Analysis and Plan (both in the main text and at Annex G), with specific activities for gender mainstreaming and for empowering women in the implementation of the PA; requirements for annual monitoring and reporting are also well-identified. Although this is commendable, indicators are so ambitious and inconsistent with the cultural reality of Ethiopia to result into a planning for failure:

-For strengthening institutional capacity for transparency-related activities, ensuring that: i) in consultation meetings, women are fully represented (50%) in the planned permanent inter-ministerial body; ii) women participates (50% of taskforce) in workshops and consultative meetings to define roles and tasks of stakeholders for implementing the transparency requirements; iii) women integrates (50%) the national team to develop the national system for GHG emission inventory and functional GHG database and information system
-For strengthening technical capacity for transparency-related activities, including tracking of progress towards attaining NDC, ensuring that: i) women integrates the consultative workshops (30%) to develop guidelines for GHG emission mitigation policy measures as well as ii) those for public budget system; iii) women are part of the trainees (50%) on Transparency framework and iv) involved (50%) in exercises to identify additional sectors and data collection widening activities; v) women are trained (75%) on the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines; and finally vi) women lecturers are involved (25%) in the establishment of QA/QC procedures and uncertainty analysis when national universities are engaged.

The PRF indicators only make one reference to gender equality at Indicator 2. Considering the analysis done in the ProDoc where it is explicitly recognized a scarce presence of women in ministries and decision-making

bodies, more could have been done to ensure that the CBIT Project contributes to redress gender imbalances in the public workforce by explicitly setting targets of participation. In addition, although it is recognized that women suffers most from climate change and that they do play key roles in forestry and agriculture, these types of projects fail to define gender roles in data collection.

4.1.4 Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector

Linkages with other projects and activities implemented in Ethiopia on climate change is a main objective of the CBIT Project and play an important role in ensuring inter-ministerial collaboration for data sharing and management and for the technical and institutional sustainability of actions focusing on Green Growth and GHG emission inventory for transparency, once the CBIT project is over. Partnerships were envisaged with UN agencies to enhance regional and global ongoing initiatives as well as with other donors, civil society organizations and international finance institutions. At Project start, there were already ongoing funded initiatives on MRV with similar objectives and similar underlining theories of change to improve compliance with the PA and the transparency framework; this has contributed to partly overcome some of the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic's restrictions, created synergies for a more holistic and resilient structure of policy interventions and improved legitimacy.

Table N.6 Linked projects and initiatives

Project Title	Status	Source/Partners	Theme for collaboration
Tracking and Strengthening Climate Action (TASCA)	Completed	World Resource Institute (WRI)	An initiative of WRI implemented in five countries, including Ethiopia; support to governments to monitor the implementation and impact of NDCs and relative policies. A review of capacity needs for establishing the MRV System, CRGE Tracking, identification of options for hosting MRV database, reviewing existing tools and institutional arrangements, updating the existing national MRV system and linking it with sectoral MRV systems. Collaboration with the CBIT was to enhance institutional arrangement for transparency and strengthening the overall national MRV system. A mapping of stakeholders was done.
Initiative on Climate Action Transparency (ICAT)	Ongoing	Italy Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (*see footnote 4*)	Activities to reduce GHG with technical support and capacity building for the implementation of the MRV system and CRGE. The possible collaboration with CBIT to enhance institutional arrangement for transparency, strengthening the MRV and transparency in the AFOLU sector. No direct collaboration is manifest.
CBIT-AFOLU (with Ethiopian Forest Development)	Completed	FAO, World Bank	The global CBIT-AFOLU project also worked in Ethiopia to strengthen the transparency and integrity of GHG data in the AFOLU sector. FAO is the technical lead to provide support to the GoE on the National REDD+ strategy which aims to deliver large part of the emission reduction and carbon removal targets of the CRGE strategy in the forestry sector, working with the World Bank.
UNDP Deep-Dive & Climate Promise in Ethiopia	Completed	UNDP and partnership	The UNDP's Climate Promise is the world's largest offer of support to countries on NDC enhancement. As an NDC partnership, it involves various donors among which the World Bank, WRI, EU. The Project participates to the CBIT PSC and strictly coordinates its activity.
EU Project Sector Reform Performance Contract (SRPC)	Completed	EU	A Budget Support delivered through the MoF with a fixed tranche, directly accessible and variable tranches accessible upon fulfillment of certain performance indicators for GHG reduction in specific sectors. It aims at improving GHG MRV actions/coordination through capacity building and improved data flows. Collaboration with CBIT for trainings, enhance institutional arrangement for transparency, strengthening MRV system and informing policy and decision-making. Strict coordination under the EPA MRV Directorate leadership, with great synergies and complementarities.

4.2 Project Implementation

4.2.1 Adaptive Management

A long time elapsed between Project signature – December 2019, the hiring of the PM – July 2020 – and the implementation of the Inception Workshop - October 2020. Unfortunately, the Project was signed exactly when the coronavirus pandemic was breaking out, with its associated restrictions in international and national travels and in holding face-to-face meetings, workshops and trainings (social distancing). This is the key disruptive factor in starting activities which caused postponing the hiring of the PM ; yet, Government's

instability with the elections planned for 2020 and postponed due to the coronavirus also contributed to the delay. The Inception Workshop was implemented virtually, within three months after the PM was installed. The request for a Project extension has been accepted and the Project is formally extended up to April 2024.

The most important additional challenge for management has been the reorganization of the Government which followed the elections of June&September 2021 with a restructuring which is not even terminated at the time of writing this report. Alternations of staff happened at decision-making, middle management and partly also at technical level, involving not only the federal side but also the regional and local levels. In addition, many of the CRGE units, originally present in each ministry – often at Directorate level - and also dealing with climate-related activities - have been dismantled or downgraded with a reduction of the staff/experts integrating them. As an adaptive management measure, the PM and the federal EPA team ensured a proactive and continuous communication with EPA and line ministries staff also at the region and local levels; notwithstanding, the situation remains a major impediment for the smooth implementation of the capacity development and training activities. Things are further complicated by the high turnover of staff in public institutions due to extremely low salaries, obliging many training to be repeated to ensure the presence of trained staff at any time for the GHG data collection and the management of the MRV.

4.2.2 Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements

The EPA MRV Directorate focal point performs an appreciated and recognized leaderships for climate-related activities, enabling the participation of his team and of technical staff in line ministries. This interinstitutional coordination role is key to create an enabling environment for promoting effective actions to combat climate change and for answering the commitments taken with UNFCCC and under the PA framework. However challenges are present, limiting the possibility of stronger relationships at inter-ministerial level and with non-public partners. Participation happens mainly at technical level while middle managers and decision-makers are reported to be too busy to get involved in the management of the activities to comply with the PA transparency requirements, except for participating to the high level forums and meetings. The government local level participates at regional and city administrations and in minimal part at zone and woreda level. Instead, partners outside the public arena, in particular the private sector and civil society are practically inexistent in the CBIT consultations and trainings; yet, this does not necessarily mean that they have not been involved by EPA in the preparation of the TNC or the BUR, as these documents indicate. Management informs that although they have been invited to collaborate, the approach did not succeed. Notwithstanding implemented virtually, the Inception Workshop Report documents only the presence of one representative from the EFCCC, the MoA, the MoT, the MoI, the MoM, the MoH and UNDP CO.

Article 11, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement states that, "*Capacity-building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership of Parties in particular, for developing country Parties, including at the national, subnational, and local levels. Capacity-building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity-building activities under the Convention and should be an effective iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive*". Stakeholder participation in the CBIT project is not excellent but management cannot be considered accountable for this. The high turnover of staff in the public sector – mostly due to the extremely low salaries but currently also to the government restructuring which is ongoing since 2021 - represents a major obstacle to retain capacities created. Most of the CRGE units established in each ministry, in various cases at Directorate level and with which the CBIT Project was to work, have been suppressed or downgraded. The scarce involvement of decision-makers in the PSC - which in this project also happens to be the inter-ministerial body for the activities related with the PA transparency framework which was to be established and institutionalized - is replaced by the dedication of technical experts nominated in each ministry to work on the MRV management and related actions; they have the expertise to provide required inputs and are also delegated enough decision-making power to allow project activities to be implemented without major disruption. Although this is not ideal, given the current Ethiopian government situation it is probably the right choice, considering that turnover of officials is slightly better than at decision making and middle management level. A strong collaboration with the mentioned EU Budget Support has been a key factor for

the achievement of certain products, satisfying the deliverables of both the EU and the CBIT initiatives. Women are definitely underrepresented in institutional forums and efforts to involve them in training and consultations are not fully satisfactory; in the PSC, the only woman representing the Ministry of Water has recently been replaced. The academia has been well involved in technical activities to develop QC/QA procedures and guidelines; in the training and to provide advisory service to regional and federal experts but they do not participate in the PSC.

Overall the CBIT Project engages more than 15 institutions, i.e. MoPD, EPA; MoF; MoA; MoWE; MoTL; MoI; MoUDI; MoM; MoH, which include the key emitting sectors; the Space Science and Geospatial Institute which is involved in monitoring and reporting the forest performance in Ethiopia for the period 2020-2021; and four Universities (Centre for Environmental Sciences, Addis Ababa University (CES-AAU), which collaborated for elaborating the TNC and BUR; Haramaya University; Wondo Genet College of Forestry (for AFOLU training) and Adama University) with which MoUs are ready for signature. There is no evidence of participants from civil society, NGOs and the private sector; instead, the key partnership with the EU characterizes by an excellent collaboration and complementarity, a great result considering the usual competition between development partners. The leadership of EPA plays certainly a key role which allowed the two partners to share activities efficiently and effectively, i.e. EU developing the GHG central database while the CBIT socialized it among ministries, trained ICT staff of EPA and conducted training at regional and local levels; similarly, the EU focused on developing the GIS/web-based data system while the CBIT conducted training in woreda, zones and regions in use of the database and according to IPCC guidelines. Finally the CBIT supported the final phases of the preparation of TNC and of BUR, activities implemented under the EU initiative.

4.2.3 Project Finance and Co-Finance

The Project budget totals US$ 1,358,000 of which US$ 1,166,000 was provided by GEF and the remaining US$ 192,000 is co-financing from the Government (US$ 142,000 in-kind) and UNDP (US$ 50,000 cash). The Project was endorsed by CEO in August 2019, officially started in December 2019 with its signature but expenditures initiated with the hiring of the PM and then the implementation of the Inception Workshop, respectively in July and October 2020. Project implementation and expenditures are done in accordance with the annual workplan; financial reporting is done utilizing UNDP templates and procedures under the UNDP's NIM.

The GEF amount approved by the GEF Council is fixed and project management costs cannot exceed it. As per UNDP requirements outlined in the UNDP POPP, the **PSC** may allow expenditures up to the tolerance level beyond the approved budget amount for the year, without requiring a revision. Budget revisions are allowed within a tolerance level which: i) should not exceed a budget re-allocation among component of 10% or more of the total project grant; and ii) should not introduce new budget items/components exceeding 5% of the original GEF allocation; if this happens, UNDP/GEF approval is required as these are considered major amendments. Any over expenditure incurred beyond the available GEF grant amount has to be absorbed by non-GEF resources (e.g., UNDP TRAC or cash co-financing). Budget revisions occurred, all within allowed limits, and obtained required approvals and signatures; instead, the extension of the Project requires additional resources (i.e. payment of the PM) which will be covered through UNDP TRAC resources.

UNDP-CO is responsible for ensuring quality assurance for the execution of GEF resources. UNDP procedures require that funds advanced to the IP must be reported on a financial report quarterly to the UNDP CO. Strict collaboration between the UNDP CO Finance Officer and the EPA Finance Officer ensures compliance. The independent audit found the financial records and internal control systems satisfactory and in compliance with UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). The Ethiopia CBIT Project was approved under a NIM implementation modality; the modalities to transfer funds under NIM are Direct cash transfer and Direct Payments. Although the ProDoc refers that there was no requirement for the UNDP CO to perform a capacity assessment of the IP, reportedly and correctly, HACT micro assessments occur each time, and especially when the IP is new to UNDP rules, to ensure appropriate training is delivered for the IP financial officers to be conversant with UNDP procedures. UNDP CO regularly visits the IP and provides the necessary assistance. Quarterly financial reports are produced by the IP, which are revised by UNDP and used

to produce the quarterly financial reports which for the UNDP RTA and GEF. Associated operational and administrative costs are covered in the budget as Project Management Costs. The budget is managed by Outcome and Output, with Project management listed under a separate budget line. Financial reports were not readily available and information appeared to be still under systematization; following the provision of various versions of the summaries of expenses per outcome, UNDP CO confirms the amounts reported in Table 7 below:

Table N.7 GEF Budget allocations and expenditures per Component/Outcome (USD)

Budget line/Amounts	GEF allocation	GEF Expenses Year 2020	GEF Expenses Year 2021	GEF expenses Year 2022	GEF expenses Year 2023	Cumulative expenses at Dec. 2023
Outcome 1.1	**460,000**	**118,220.63**	**76,928.36**	**129,185.96**	**221,379.07**	**545,714.02**
Outcome 2.1	**600,000**	**125,575.43**	**60.930.96**	**187.256.25**	**159,992.94**	**533,755.58**
Project Management	**106,000**	**181.160**	**35,206.09**	**3,826.82**	**47,238.80**	**86,452.87**
Total	**1,166,000.00**	**243,977.22**	**173.065.41**	**320,269.03**	**428,610.81**	**1.165.922.47**

The disbursement rate is lower in 2021 as a consequence of the pandemic; disbursement regularly increased in the following years. Financial resources have been committed to support the finalization of the TNC and the BUR, initiated under the EU SRPC, apparently without a proper approval of the PSC (later amended) and without consulting the RTA, considering that the budget did not include support for these activities; this is better documented below in the M&E section. Reportedly, this has been charged under Outcome 1.1, Output 1.1, the budget line for the establishment of the inter-ministerial body to coordinate activities.

The ProDoc indicates an in-kind Government co-financing commitment of USD 142.000; and USD 50.000 in cash by the UNDP CO. Reportedly, both co-financing have been fully honored, with the Government co-financing which will have to be updated by the end of the Project, considering that the extension necessarily implies further in-kind support in terms of human resources and logistical space. Table 8 and 9 reports confirmed sources of co-financing as of December 2023.

Table N.8 Co-Financing Table

Co-financing (type/source)	UNDP financing (USD m)		Government (USD m)		Total (USD m)	
	Planned	**Actual**	**Planned**	**Actual**	**Planned**	**Actual**
In-Kind			142.000	142.000	142.000	142.000
Cash	50.000	50.000			50.000	50.000
Totals	**50.000**	**50.000**	**142.000**	**142.000**	**192.000**	**192.000**

Table N.9 Confirmed sources of co-financing at TE stage (Dec 2023)

Sources of Co-Financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-Financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (US$ m)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grants	Investment mobilized	- 50.000
Recipient Country Government	Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditure	142.000
Total Co-Financing				**192.000**

4.2.4 M&E: design at entry, implementation, overall assessment of M&E

Monitoring & Evaluation	Rating
M&E design at entry	Satisfactory
M&E Plan Implementation	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Quality of M&E	Moderately Satisfactory

For the purpose of design, the monitoring plan is satisfactory. The ProDoc includes a detailed standard M&E Plan with an estimated total cost of USD 41,000 as GEF budget; no co-financing budget is envisaged and primary responsibility is assigned either to the UNDP CO and/or the PM, with some activities to the GEF team

and the PSC. Items to be monitored are identified, individually costed and with proper identification of responsibilities and timeframe; the cost of the TE is included. Monitoring is undertaken in compliance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures requirements. The UNDP CO ensures that UNDP and GEF M&E requirements meet high quality standards in a timely fashion (PIRs, Evaluations); supports management as needed; provides Quality Assurance Assessments (completely independent from management, given the NIM modality); and ensures compilation of the ATLAS/Quantum risk log. The UNDP RTA provides overisight support, troubleshooting and quality assurance. Both the GEF and the UNFCCC Operational Focal Points are located in the MoPD and ensure consistency with GEF and UNFCCC policies, synergies with other GEF projects in the country and utilization of the GEF Tracking Tools. A CBIT NIM audit has been implemented at the end of 2021.

The UNDP CO and the RTA provide the required supervision; the RTA changed three times during Project development. Monitoring concerns the overall performance as well as technical and organizational aspects of the implementation and uses simple tools to track results which – although not in a very structured way - are later reported in the annual PIR, focusing on the PRF indicators. The Risk Management log appears to have not been systematically updated as comments made by the RTA in PIRs reveal; UNDP CO confirms that they are currently updated. PIRs are therefore the main tool to inform higher management and key inputs for external evaluations. Three PIRs (2021, 2022 and 2023) have been prepared. Reporting is sufficiently informative but the quality of the narrative is mediocre, with language confusions and lots of repetitions, not always in line with the requirement and without a clear reference/link to the products achieved. Management reports that anonymous feedback satisfaction sheets are always delivered to and collected from participants, that trainings were generally appreciated in content and reports prepared; it also reports that although a link is not provided in PIRs for the deliverables, these can be found of the GEF/UNDP PIR website. In addition, the GEF Operational Focal Point and the IP have not been invited to comment. The RTA provides a MS rating in 2023 PIR. The UNDP CO rating seems to be given without a clear assessment of the constraints and achievements, challenges ad counteractive measures, critical risks assessments and adaptive and financial management. The Gender section of PIR provides a link to a PP with a project presentation progress which has nothing to do with gender.

The MTR was conducted in March 2022, at the request of the RTA, even if not required for MSP, to take stock of achievements and set the course for the remaining of the Project; this TE report is elaborated in December 2023-January 2024. The MTR provided recommendations which are partly implemented, such as the provision of IPCC training based on sectors and further collaboration with the EU initiative; other recommendations remain valid as can be addressed only with further progress of activities and if political and institutional conditions modify.

As the PSC coincides with the inter-ministerial body envisaged in Outcome 1 and as members are mainly technical staff of ministries, strategic guidance is not provided by a supervisory body, independent from implementation; instead, the same group of experts plans and approves budgets, implement the work and assesses performance. This is revealed from both the interviews and the PSC's Minutes of the Meetings (MoMs). MoMs are simply drafted and could be much more detailed and informative, summarizing the main commitments taken and monitoring them in the successive meeting; overall participation is not optimal from interested parties. It is however very valuable the participation of key technical staff together with managers of the EU SRPC and the UNDP Climate Promise project which allows synergies and complementarities in climate-related issues. The PSC has met once a year for a total of five meetings, as an ad hoc meeting was organized to sustain what appears to be a retroactive approval of the decision to financially support the EU SRPC for the elaboration of the TNC and BUR; effectively, an e-mail exchange between the RTA and the UNDP CO indicates that UNDP CO was not aware of this choice, although one representative sits on the PSC. This is no surprise considering that the PSC's MoMs also reveal a scarce or no presence of the UNDP CO, except for the 2020 meeting.

At Project design Tracking Tools were used by the GEF to monitor Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs); currently the system is replaced by the Core Indicators. The first Tracking Tool was attached to the ProDoc as Annex B; the MTR reports that this Tool has been updated at mid-term but there is no evidence that this has been done as no document is annexed to the MTR report; considering that Tracking Tools are no longer in use and that the ProDoc also report at Annex M a Table with GEF Core Indicators, for the purpose of this TE it may be appropriate to just update this table as follows:

Table N.10 Core Indicators

Core Indicator 11	**Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**				***(Number)***
		Number			
		Expected		Achieved	
Number of personnel/experts (including Women) from all 11 stakeholder institutions involved in transparency-related initiatives will be engaged in the project activities		PIF stage	Endorsement	MTR	TE
	Female	*0*	*0*	135	*256*
	Male	*0*	*0*	*446*	*730*
	Total	*0*	*0*	*581*	*986*

The Table shows that the number of involved people is well above expectation (180 people, 54 women), representing more than 15 institutions, including ministries and research centres, with no participation of the private sector and civil society. During the implementation of the Project, the country's NDCs have been revised, increasing its ambitions from 64% to 68,8% emissions reduction, with a horizon to 2030.

Overall, the monitoring system established is moderately satisfactory: it utilizes usual and mandatory tools, mostly utilizing UNDP procedures but with an inadequate participation in the PSC (scarce presence of UNDP; no line ministries senior management presence; inability to provide oversight being composed of the same members which integrate the technical working group as an interministerial body) and a mediocre use of monitoring tools (risk log not systematically updated, mediocre quality of the narrative in PIR, no reference link to the deliverables, among others).

4.2.5 UNDP implementation/oversight; Implementing Partner execution and overall assessment of implementation/oversight and execution.

UNDP Execution/Oversight & Implementing Partner collaboration	Rating
Quality of UNDP Implementation /Oversight	Moderately Satisfactory
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	Satisfactory
Overall Quality of Implementation /Oversight and Execution	Moderately Satisfactory

As part of UNDP's institutional capacity development strategy for the country, the Project is implemented through the UNDP's NIM; UNDP acts as the IA, providing technical guidance and support to management. Daily management is the responsibility of the PM - hired by UNDP but sitting in the EPA, MRV Directorate office (representing the IP, which is the MoPD) – working with the EPA focal person/leader, with the entire EPA team which assists as needed in the different functions (i.e. monitoring, financial management).

UNDP CO financial assistance to the IP is appreciated and no major financial issue emerged from the terminal evaluation nor the external audit implemented. Financial training to the IP is provided as appropriate, especially on-the-go training with frequent visits to check appropriateness of expenses and support the preparation of financial reports. The NIM supported modality is correct. Reportedly, the risk log in ATLAS/QUANTUM has now been updated but this was not systematic as the comments of the RTA in PIRs indicate. Budget revisions were prepared under the guidance of the RTA.

The PM works in strict collaboration with the EPA MRV Focal point to facilitate active stakeholder engagement and implementation of project activities; the EPA MRV Focal Point provides an appreciated leadership and ensures synergy among climate change-related projects. Both the PM and the EPA MRV Focal Point have been stable in their post. Synergy and collaboration prevail between UNDP and management, with reciprocal appreciation.

The RTA called UNDP CO and management attention on the fact that the purpose of the CBIT Project was not to prepare TNC and BUR and that the financial support of US$ 82,540 provided to complement that of the EU Budget Support had not been consulted, discussed and not even informed; reassurance that this would not compromise activities under the CBIT was requested; on the contrary, return of funds from other resources was requested. A *Note to the File* was also requested accordingly. Effectively, the budget does not include a support for the elaboration of the TNC and the BUR. Management informs that the preparation of TNC and BUR documents was planned and initiated under the EU Budget Support in 2022 through the CES-AAU and the Colorado Consultancy Service, respectively. The recruitment process for both items followed EPA's procurement procedures, and the initial payment for both tasks was made by the EU Budget Support. Complementary funds from the CBIT Project were approved by the PSC to support the finalization of the activities. Although the issue should have been consulted and formalized, it should be noted that: i) the CBIT Project has worked in partnership with the EU SRPC on issues related to the PA Transparency framework; ii) tasks and roles of the two initiatives are extremely related, contributing to the CBIT objective and answering UNFCCC requirements; iii) the SRPC is not a project but a Budget Support directly delivered to the Government through the MoF and therefore the CBIT has directly supported the Government and not the EU as such. The evaluator considers that formally the procedure was inappropriate but substantially activities are in line with the CBIT objectives and the obligations under the UNFCCC and overall do not seem to affect the implementation of the other activities included in the workplans.

The PSC has regularly met annually, approving budget and workplans. As mentioned, it is a rather peculiar PSC as it works technically and at the same time provides higher level guidance. Representatives of the EU SRPC participated which facilitated joint work and collaboration. The presence of civil society and the private sector is not documented in any type of forums and meetings.

4.2.6 Risk Management and Social and Environmental Standards

A SESP was not developed at the Project design, with the ProDoc indicating that the Project was exempted. A low risk is always indicated in PIRs and no new social and environmental risks are identified during implementation, considering the nature of this project where climate change and environmental sustainability lies at the heart of the action.

As per standard UNDP requirements, risks should be updated and systematically recorded in the UNDP Quantum Risk Strategy[6], in line with the UNDP's enterprise risk management policy. This was not systematically done, as reported by the RTA in the 2023. Table N. 6 above reports risks identified and the way these have been managed; risks ranked from low to moderate and reportedly have been recently properly registered in QUANTUM by UNDP.

[6] The previous ATLAS system is replaced by the Quantum platform.

4.3 Project Results and Impacts

4.3.1 Progress towards objective and expected outcome

The Project has formally achieved most of its targets or is in its way towards achievement by the end of the implementation activities; the contribution towards the outcomes and the objective is undeniable although the required institutionalization of the consultation and coordination mechanism is lacking and the high turnover of civil servants remain a main impediment to sustainability. The analysis of PIRs and of the technical documents produced provide exhaustive and valuable information which is generally confirmed through interviews with relevant stakeholders (PM, EPA MRV Directorate staff, line ministries, UNDP staff and development partners). Implementation challenges have been faced; within a complex context of continuous restructuring at government level and high turnover of civil servants which impedes the achievement of an ideal situation, results are generally appreciated and considered a relevant contribution to enable a conducive environment to enhance climate transparency. Progress towards outcomes is registered in Annex E, in the results framework matrix, with achievements, comments and rating. The Satisfactory rating which characterizes implementation finds justification in the following chapters.

Assessment of Outcomes	Rating
Relevance	Highly Satisfactory
Effectiveness	Satisfactory
Efficiency	Satisfactory
Overall Project Outcome Rating	Satisfactory

4.3.1.1 Relevance

The relevance of the Project is Highly Satisfactory, from design and throughout execution. With the objective to achieve middle-country status by 2025, Ethiopia's National Development Plan seeks to continuously reduce GHG emissions through the implementation of its CRGE strategy as well as a number of complementary sectoral climate resilience strategies (agriculture and forestry; water and energy, transport, urban and health). The CBIT represents the suitable mean to remove barriers identified in order to set up a transparent framework for Ethiopia, update the methodologies with which GHG emissions were calculated, adopting updated IPPC methodologies (from the old 1996 to the new 2006 guidelines), establish an institutional and legal framework on climate change and enabling the country to measure, track and communicate its carbon emission/sink and plan its mitigation and adaptation strategies effectively.

Ethiopia's development aspiration and the CBIT Project are therefore fully aligned to the national policy context as well as to the fundamental principles of sustainable development and to the UNFCCC and the PA requirements and commitments. Broad-based multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations are the norm in Ethiopia as it can be appreciated for the development of its Ten-Years Development Plan (TYDP) and the review of the SDGs. Consultations were conducted during project design, and at inception mostly with government counterparts and led by the former EFCCC; the participation of non-government partners is practically non-existent, including the EU representative even if it was already identified as a major partner as implementation finally confirmed. At Inception, Project design was validated without major documented changes. Interviews generally confirm that the fight against climate change is a priority of the government and a key aspect of its CRGE strategy. Ethiopia has ratified the UNFCCC on May 1994; the Kyoto Protocol on February 2005; the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol in 2015; and the Paris Agreement on 2017. The Project was and remains consistent with the national legal and policy framework, with development priorities and international commitments, and specifically:

- ✓ The Ten-Years Development Plan (TYDP), a Pathway to Prosperity (2021-2030), which lays a long-term vision of making Ethiopia an "African Beacon of Prosperity", defined in terms of created human and institutional capability. Various pillars are identified, including a "Resilient Green Economy". Chapter 11 refers to the Environment and Climate Change Plan which among the principal objectives has the

reduction of the amount of sectoral GHG emissions. Chapter 5 refers to the Economic Sectors Development Plan which includes Agricultural Development; Manufacturing Industry Development; Construction Industry Development; Mining and Petroleum Development; Trade Development; Tourism Development; Urban Development. The Agricultural Development Plan among its objectives has that of rendering agriculture more resilient to climate change, by reducing the impacts of environmental and climate changes

- ✓ The mainstreaming of climate change in national and sectoral planning, with several strategies, plans and policies effectively responding to climate change and concrete actions plans intended to reduce the risks of harmful effects that can slow down the country's development, including regional and city administrations' adaptation plans
- ✓ The TYDP is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Africa Agenda 2063 through the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation process
- ✓ The Climate-Resilient Green Economy -CRGE strategy, approved in 2011 which identifies agriculture, forestry, power, industry, transportation and buildings as instrumental priority sectors in reaching middle-income status by 2025; focusing on climate change mitigation aspects more than on adaptation, a number of sectoral climate resilience strategies for the agriculture and forestry, water and energy, transport, urban and health sectors were developed recognizing and trying to address the gap. The CRGE serves as the main framework for GHG emission mitigation and aims to promote green growth, low-carbon emissions and high economic growth and create a society that is climate resilient
- ✓ The National Adaptation Plan, of May 2019 to reduce the vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by creating adaptive capacity and resilience, which build on ongoing efforts to address climate change and includes 40 adaptation interventions
- ✓ The Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDs) with the goal of planting 20 billion trees under its Green Legacy Initiative as a way to enhance its carbon sink
- ✓ According to Articles 4 and 12 of the UNFCCC, the publication and submission every four years of national communications (INC in 2001, which reported that the country is dependent on agriculture and natural resources and extremely sensitive to the effects of climate change; SNC in 2015; and the TNC and the First Biennial Updated Report (BUR), both in July 2023
- ✓ The first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in 2017 with a GHG emissions reduction target of 64% by 2030 below a Business As Usual (BAU) scenario; GHG reduction efforts are contained in strategic sectoral development plans with the support of technical partners and financiers; mitigations actions were considered in different economic sectors, depending on their contribution to the overall national effort; the Government also intended to undertake adaptation initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of its population, environment and economy to the adverse effects of climate change based on its CRGE, with a long term view of becoming carbon-neutral and a mid-term goal of attaining middle-income status
- ✓ The updated NDCs submission in 2021, with an increased ambition of GHG emissions reduction target of 68.8% by 2030 corresponding to a reduction of 277.7 Mt Co2e, calculating GHG with updated IPCC methodologies and relying on improved activity data through standardized QA/QC procedures as initiated under this CBIT project
- ✓ The establishment of a coordinating interministerial body under the CBIT project, led by EPA, and which is not yet the permanent and institutionalized coordination body envisaged but a technical working group coinciding with the PSC.

Ethiopia adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in September 2015. The CBIT programme directly contributes to the achievement of SDG N. 13 *"Climate Action": take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact*; and SDG 17 *"Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable developmen*t. The SDGs are well-integrated into the TYDP; even the previous Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) was aligned with SDGs, with an overall alignment score of 78.4%. SDGs have been integrated into the budget system by allocating the lion's share of the budget to pro-poor sectors and a dedicated budget to SDGs. Ethiopia has also volunteered to prepare national review reports on selected SDGs through broad-base stakeholder consultations.

The Project objective is closely aligned with the programming directions and underlying mission of the GEF Climate Change Focal Area, specifically the CBIT Trust Fund. It directly responds to the requirements of the UNFCCC and the PA.

The Project was linked to the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 1.4 Scaled up action on climate change adaptation and mitigation across sectors which is funded and implemented; it was well aligned with the UNDAF/Country Program (2016-2020) Document, Outcome 5; "By 2020 key Government institutions at federal and regional levels, including cities, are better able to plan, implement and monitor priority climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and sustainable resource management". Relevance is maintained under the 2020-2025 UNDAF for Ethiopia with Outcome 4 on Environmental Protection & Climate Change: All people in Ethiopia live in a society resilient to environmental risks and adapted to climate change.

4.3.1.2 Effectiveness

The Project's effectiveness is Satisfactory, given the complex institutional situation in Ethiopia. Targets are mostly formally achieved and although they are not complete or ideal they certainly contribute to the stated objective; while it is possible to confirm that the political will to adopt a climate transparency framework exists, the processes to adopt and institutionalize the legal and institutional framework are still to be addressed. The CBIT Project supports Ethiopia to build institutional and technical capacities to better comply with the PA requirements and implement its transparency framework, in line with national priorities and contributing to the national objective of implementing the CRGE strategy; this is achieved through a strong collaboration between EPA, through its MRV Directorate and what it remains of the previous CRGE units, - either downgraded or suppressed and formed of a reduced number of experts nominated to work on MRV related activities - in line ministries, regional and city administrations, universities and research centres engaged as well as other partners in development, especially donors but with almost no involvement of civil society and the private sector. The desired change of strengthened institutions and partnerships, with well trained personnel who are conversant with the MRV of GHG emissions, IPCC 2006 guidelines and software, a functional national GHG emission database and system is slowly happening; overall the capacity to monitor and report on GHG in a transparency manner is being enhanced. Thus, this CBIT project supports the establishment and operationalization of a national system for GHG emission inventory, with a functional GHG database and information system which created the conditions for the preparation of the first BUR and the TNC as parts of its commitments to the UNFCCC. This has allowed to sustain the increased country's ambition of its NDC, and raise its mitigation ambitions in accordance with the PA and within its post 2025 vision.

Reporting under PIRs fails to well identify the areas of complementarities and collaboration between the CBIT Project and the EU Budget Support in order to identify each contribution. The two projects have been implemented in parallel but the EU has achieved quicker results, operating through a budget support. The CBIT came to well complement achievements, greatly investing in capacity development and training of the workforce and experts and partly investing in finalizing the TNC and the first BUR.

Annex E is the PRF which details results, achievement of indicators/targets and provides a summarized comment by the TE Consultant; complementary information is provided below on each outcome and for some key products.

C. 1. Institutional capacity development

Outcome 1.1 Strengthened institutional capacity for transparency-related activities.

A permanent interministerial body providing high level leadership is not established.

Since the elaboration of the CRGE, the need for the establishment of a permanent inter-ministerial consultative and decision-making body was identified. At Project start, the EFCCC was empowered to convene inter-ministerial stakeholders at decision-making level and could count on the presence of CRGE units, in many cases at directorate level; when this commission was suppressed and downgraded to EPA also many of the CRGE units were suppressed or downgraded. EPA is an authority – the regulations of which are

still pending parliamentary approval - under the MoPD; EPA holds responsibility for managing the MRV and the GHG Inventory but climate change issues in a wider sense are dealt by a minister of the MoDP, recently nominated. There exists an annual forum of ministers convened by the MoPD where climate-related issues are dealt by at general level and the current government does not see scope for creating another inter-ministerial body; this is not considered by stakeholders interviewed a lack of commitment to implement the CRGE strategy and to address climate challenges. Although it does not have the authority to ensure inter-ministerial coordination on climate change at leadership level and the ongoing government reorganization constitutes a real challenge, EPA plays an effective and appreciated role in bringing together national stakeholders at technical level, with the objective of establishing and managing an MRV and a GHG Database; this technical working group is integrated by representatives of the most important sectoral GHG emitters at federal level, but able to outreach to their counterparts at region, city administration, zone and woreda levels; it somehow replaces an MRV technical group which was created under the EU initiative but limited to the AFOLU sector. *The definition of roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the transparency requirements, for the GHG database inventory and MRV management* has been done under the EU Budget Support, and EPA has signed MoUs with each participating ministry; therefore, this framework exists although it is not part of the narrative reporting of the CBIT Project.

Overall, the CBIT Project has been able to involve over 15 institutions; some of them are represented in the technical working group in an active way: EPA, MoA; EFD, MoI, MoT&L, MoUD&I, MoW&E and more recently a technical focal point has been nominated also for the MoM. This working group serves the scope of consultation and coordination and is called Sterring Committee as it functions both as a technical working group and as the PSC, with its guidance and oversight role. Evidently, this represents an anomaly, not to say a conflict of interest as the working group assesses and approves workplans and budgets, and oversees and provides guidance on its own work. The MoH was part of the PSC but as a focal person was not nominated is not an active member; it was although involved in training activities. The MoF is involved for its role of coordination of all UN programs for which it is ultimately accountable. In addition, the EU Budget Support was delivered directly through the MoF. Research centres are fairly well involved in activities but are not invited to participate in the PSC meetings; MoUs with EPA are ready for signature with each of the four involved universities; instead, the participation of civil society (key for the protection and respect of human rights) and of the private sector (vital for the reduction of GHGs) is practically non-existent in the CBIT but efforts to involve them are noticed in the preparation of the BUR and TNC.

National system for GHG emissions inventory and functional GHG database and information system.

The design of a MRV system is an indispensable tool for tracking the progress of mitigation actions' policies towards a country NDCs and the commitments taken during the PA in terms of reducing GHG emissions every five years. The *conditio sine qua non* to design this system are: i) the revision of the NDC information to align it with the PA new commitments, which has been done with the submission of the new NDC in 2021; ii) the establishment of an appropriate institutional and legal framework, with relative protocols and commitments taken for data management, which is still ongoing and although not ideal partly achieved under the CBIT and partly under the EU SRPC; iii) the establishment of a GHG Database and Information System, with purchase and installation of IT software and hardware tools, also achieved through a strict collaboration between EU Budget Support and the CBIT, and evidently iv) capacity building/strengthening, undertaken under both initiatives but with a stronger and more specific contribution from the CBIT. Collaboration with the EU SPRC has been so strict to sometimes being difficult to separate activities under one or the other initiative.

Under the EU SRPC, the establishment of the MRV online platform is well advanced (IT equipment purchased and functioning of the system designed) but not yet completed as it was possible to appreciate from a demo done by the EPA technicians to the TE evaluator (i.e. at the moment it handles only Tier I data, it needs to integrate other MRV related systems, mitigation and adaptation activities, and carbon trading, among others). In strict collaboration with the EU which provided international consultancies, software and hardware and high level training, the CBIT Project has contributed to establish a National GHG Database and Information System, with training which allowed an improved collection of information at field level, i.e. supporting the Oromia National Regional State 2018 GHG Emission Inventory and Dire Dawa City Administration 2019 GHG Emission Inventory.

EPA has undertaken key category analysis of all emissions and identified four key sectors as the largest contributors to GHG emission – AFOLU, IPPU, Waste and Energy (including transport), including sub-sectors. Several sectors have established their baseline inventories, following the IPCC 2006 guidelines; the system is operational but requires further strengthening and is evidently as good as the data which are being collected. The primary mitigation options concern: i) *IPPU*: emissions from cement production; ii) *AFOLU*: livestock, land/forestry and agricultural crops; *Waste*: solid waste management, sanitary landfill, faecal sludge management, integrated wastewater treatment systems, sewer line connection, and promotion of zero liquid discharge; *Energy*: biofuel and light rail transit.

The database builds on data provided by regions to the respective ministries who then forward them to the MRV Directorate for consolidation. Tier[7] 1 and partly Tier II methods are being utilized; stakeholders call for training in the use of Tier III and the CER-AUU reports of a possible future collaboration with universities in Sweden and USA for support in the analysis. The system is hosted in EPA and feeds the MRV; currently the database is managed at federal level and once fully running will allow relevant stakeholders to access the system virtually in order to check, review and improve data, as well as revise calculations used for the elaboration of the inventory, thus creating an additional layer of quality assurance. The capacities to operate the system and integrate it into the MRV for its management are developed under outcome 2. Reporting on the GHG emissions through the use of the IPCC 2006 guidelines is a requirement for the elaboration of national communications and BURs; therefore, the role of CBIT in financially supporting the elaboration of the TNC and the first BUR of the country is fully aligned with CBIT's objectives and outcomes, and all activities are part and fully respond to the commitments taken under the UNFCCC and the PA frameworks.

C.2. Technical capacity development tools, training and assistance

Outcome 2.1. Strengthened technical capacity for transparency-related activities, including tracking of progress towards attaining Ethiopian NDC.

The capacity development program is a key component of the Project and a major requirement in Ethiopia where staff turnover at all levels of government is so high to represent the key sustainability problem. Extremely low salaries make the Government unable to retain staff, especially when well-trained as they quickly move to the private sector or even outside of the country, in search of better opportunities.

[7] A *tier* represents a level of methodological complexity. Tier 1 is the basic method, Tier 2 intermediate and Tier 3 the most demanding in terms of complexity and data requirements.

Guidelines for the formulation of the GHG Emission Mitigation Policy and Data collection widened and improved to sustain the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines have been finalized in June 2022 together with an Assessment of GHG Mitigation Policy on Waste Management (landfill management, light rail transit and use of biofuel) for the year 2011 to 2018 and later updated for 2022-2023; these are deliverables under the CBIT and have been prepared collecting data from different line ministries (MoH, MoTL, MoI, MoA, EPA, MoMP; MoUI), in collaboration with the Federal Statistics Agency and the Addis Ababa University; the guidelines served to ministries as a model to develop their own guidelines for assessing mitigation plans and for GHG measurement and reporting, linking data from woreda up to the federal level.

Methods to quantify and integrate support needs into the public budget and report on the effective utilization of the support received. The task involves quantifying the GHG effect of each activity proposed in different plans and ensuring that budgets and expenditures are reported accordingly. Progress has been slow; a guideline document exists, intended to develop capacity to quantify the expenses needed for attaining the NDC goals and for the evaluation of the effectiveness of expenditures on climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The activity has been done with the MoF which in the first BUR was already producing data on funds received and spent on various mitigation and adaptation actions; however, the gap remained in various ministries, regions and zones translating the GHG goals into financial terms for budgeting and reporting on expenditure on NDC related actions. The document provided for assessment under this TE is certainly outdated as elaborated in 2021 and requires further work.

Experts in key sectoral ministries regional states and city administration fully conversant on the transparency framework and *Training on the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines at relevant ministries and university carried out.* Although a proper needs' assessment and design of a training plan would have been ideal, training needs emerged naturally from the requirements of the IPCC 2006 guidelines and were addressed by the EU and the CBIT in strict collaboration, with the EU providing more high level and on the job training and the CBIT providing a more specific and intensive training, trying to reach also the regional and local levels. Therefore capacity needs have been defined in the annual workplans and approved by the PSC, based on the training identification made by EPA and according to the IPCC guidelines and MRV framework. The following table summarizes the typology of training events and the number of participants involved by gender and by level; it does not indicate the number of sessions held, i.e. the IPCC training has been given various times, even to the same people as a refresher activity; management confirms that all documents confirming participation and the different sessions are available on the GEF/UNDP PIR site web.

Table N.11 Type of Training and participants

Agency/N. of participants/Type of Training	TNC 22/01/2022	IPCC Software 2006, PA and Transparency	BUR	MRV Database System	MRV & Gender Mainstreaming	Inter-Ministerial Meeting & NDC	Notes
EPA	8 (2 women)	28 (5 women)	8 (2 women)	25 (11 women)	166 (97 women)	15 (2 women)	
Ministry of Agriculture & Regional staff	2 Men	30 (2 women)	2 Men	2 Men		2 men	IPCC 2006 software, AFOLU sector specific (crops, livestock, land); 4 days training plus refresher
Ministry of Industry & Regional staff	2 men	40 (7 women)	2 men	2 men		2 men	IPCC 2006 software, IPPU sector specific (industrial process and product use); 3 days training plus refresher
Ministry of Water & Energy & Regional staff	2 (1 woman)	52 (9 women)	2 (1 woman)	2 (1 woman)		2 (1 woman)	IPCC 2006 software, Energy sector specific; 3 days training plus refresher
Ministry of Urban & Infrastructure Development & Regional staff	2 (1 women)	42 (8 women)	2 (1 woman)	2 (1 woman)		2 (1 woman)	IPCC 2006 software, Water sector specific; 3 days training
Ministry of Mining	1 man	1 man	1 man	1 man		2	IPCC 2006 software, IPPU sector specific (Industrial Process and Product Use); 3 days training
Ministry of Transport & Logistics	2 (1 women)	45 (6 women)	2 (1 woman)	2 (1 woman)		2 (1 woman)	IPCC 2006 software, Energy sector specific; 3 days training
Ministry of Finance	1 man		1 man			2 (1 woman)	
Ethiopian Forest Development	1 man	7 man	1 man				IPCC 2006 software, AFOLU sector specific (Forest and land cover change); 4 days training plus refresher
Ethiopian Space Science Geospatial Institute	2 (1 woman)	2 (1 woman)	2 (1 woman)			1 man	IPCC 2006 software, AFOLU sector specific (Forest and land cover change); 4 days training plus refresher
Ethiopian Meteorology Institute	1 man	1 man	1 man			1 man	Providing meteorological data
Ethiopian Statistical Service	1 man	1 man	1 man			1 man	Providing national data for an inventory
Regional Cluster Level (for all regions, Zones, and Woreda Experts).	1	205 (94 Woman)					IPCC 2006 software, Paris Agreement and Transparency; how to collect GHG data from woreda to zone, to region
Experience sharing on Pre Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting Bonn – Germany					4 men (2 from EPA and 2 from MoPD		Participation to COP to advocate for Ethiopia's vulnerability to climate change and participate to side events
TOTAL= 986 (256 women)	**25 (6 women)**	**455 (131 women)**	**25 (7 women)**	**25 (6 women)**	**168 (99 women)**	**32 (6 Women)**	

As the table above indicates, the key specialized training on the IPCC 2006 software for GHG emission inventory provided at federal as well as regional/zone/woreda levels have involved 600 people (reportedly, participants came from all regions, except Tigray); this is key for the MRV system and complements the general trainings conducted through the EU Budget Support with a more specific and intensive type of training; there is no duplication of efforts both because the target and scope was lightly different and due to the turnover of staff as well as to the continuous retraining/refreshing needs of most participants. Commendably, the CES-AUU plans to create a hub to address the training needs for the calculations and management of GHGs. At local levels (zone, woreda), mastering the use of the IPCC 2006 software is a challenge, requiring repeated exposure to training. Training targeted mostly technical staff; involving decision-makers appears not to provide desired results in this sector.

The EPA MRV Directorate has been supported also with the provision of hardware and software equipment and specific training for the Information and Communication Technology staff. The CBIT Project has also provided logistical support (DSA, refreshment, transport) as necessary, complementing events organized under the EU Budget Support.

National universities engaged to support the competent authority in establishing QA/QC procedure and uncertainty analysis of the GHG inventory. Finally, the Project developed a general, sector-specific and cross-cutting QA/QC guidelines; in collaboration with the universities, Haramaya in particular, it also supported the development of general and sector-specific cross-cutting QC/QA Plan for GHG Inventory verification for AFOLU, IPPU, Waste and Transport sectors, which are fundamental elements to improve transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness, reliability and accuracy of national GHGs inventories; based on this, ministries have to elaborate their own action plans. QA/QC implementation needs a sound institutional arrangement from federal to woreda level to ease data flow; regional departments have a mandate to check the QA/QC of data collected in their respective organisations, starting from woreda level to line ministries; this link is starting to be established but need further strengthening. The roles and responsibility of data collector, data encoder, data compiler, and that of the data coordinator have to be also clearly indicated at the federal level for each line ministry.

The Addis Ababa University and Wondogenet College of Forestry support EPA in the development of the national GHGs inventory, accounting and reporting mechanism; the Wondogenet College of Forestry also provided AFOLU training for EPA in the Sidama Region. The CES-AUU assisted in developing the TNC.

Communication and knowledge management.

The Project is lagging behind in the production of knowledge management, which happened mainly through the existing EPA and UNDP portals and through social media, with the objective to reach the public at large. The Project has manifested the intention to document lessons learnt and several experiences on knowledge exchange happening at regional level, i.e. the Oromia EPA has shared its experience for regions on how to report GHG in a transparent manner. Regular communication emails and documents allowed sharing experience with line ministries; completed and approved documents are posted in the EPA portal. The Project has produced a 5 minutes video, summarizing activities (link below) and the long waited intention to capture lessons learnt and experience is reconfirmed by both management and UNDP CO; the intention is to prepare a publication targeting Ethiopian stakeholders but to be published on the UNDP and EPA websites and therefore open to the wider public, also outside of the country. The collaboration and the experience with the EU Project is also worthy reporting as it is a great and uncommon example of donor collaboration, with authentic government appropriation of achievements, through the EPA.

https://www.test.mrvethiopia.info/ (apparently still under construction)
https://www.epa.gov.et/
https://www.facebook.com/MefEth/
CBIT 2022 Annual Report11.ppt
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z9EJeSpJYniUNVUM0-Ug4tAr6HESpX-V/view?usp=drive_web

4.3.1.3 Efficiency

Management is given an encouraging Satisfactory rating, notwithstanding that given in PIRs by the RTA (Moderately Satisfactory in 2021; Moderately Unsatisfactory in 2022; and Moderately Satisfactory in 2023) and the UNDP CO which provides a general Satisfactory Rating all over implementation but without substantiating it appropriately. This TE rating is fully considering the difficulties of the context, which is outside of management control, and the difficulties of reporting in English for many stakeholders.

The CBIT Project was signed in December 2019 but effectively started in July 2020 with the recruitment of the PM and with the Inception workshop implemented in October 2020, quite after Project's signature. The disbursement rate showed a difficult curve during 2019 and 2020, improving to a certain extent in 2021 and further increasing in 2022 and 2023. Most inefficiencies can be imputed to externalities such as the COVID 19 situation - which has impacted the efficiency of most international projects in the world, ongoing regional conflicts in Oromia, Tigray and Amhara regions which absorb much of the ministries' attention and the continuous Government reorganization with frequent alternation of civil servants at all levels. An extension has been granted up to April 2024[8].

The 2022 PIR points to the need for the Project to improve the use of management tools (budget and workplan revision, M&E reports, risk monitoring and update). The different ratings provided by the RTA and UNDP CO, with even a Moderately Unsatisfactory Rating of the RTA in PIR 2022 reflects the RTA vision of a lack of strategic implementation on the SEP, key consultancies, gender strategy and knowledge management actions; the fact that most recommendations were not implemented; a relatively low delivery rate and the need to better inform all parties. The PIR quality of reporting is quite low, with language confusions and lots of repetitions, not always in line with the requirement and without a clear reference/link to the products achieved (reportedly, all necessary documents are present in the UNDP/PIR website); the RTA call to enhance evidence of achievements with links to documents, pictures, presentations, media coverage is repeating in PIRs. In addition, the GEF Operational Focal Point and IP have not been invited to comment and, in PIR 2023 the RTA provides a MS rating. The UNDP CO rating seems to be given without a clear assessment of the constraints and achievements, challenges ad counteractive measures, critical risks assessments and adaptive and financial management. The Gender section of PIR provides a link to a PP with a project presentation progress which has nothing to do with gender. Notwithstanding the delay and its considerable impact on the Project, no one seems to take account of the COVID 19 situation neither in the text nor in an upgrade of the risks. There is no reference to the process initiated to get an extension, which was granted in September 2023 but the process was initiated before the last PIR was prepared.

Notwithstanding, cost-effectiveness results by the PSC being integrated by technical staff of ministries and EPA overseeing most climate change related projects and the coordination role played by the EPA MRV Directorate focal point, with appreciable synergies and mutual support. The collaboration with the EU Budget Support is a main element of cost-efficiency, avoiding duplication of efforts and fully collaborating towards the same scope. Government co-financing is confirmed and helps keep costs low, with an in-kind support used for office space, transport, communications, daily administrative support assistance. The non formal procedure with which financial support has been channeled to finalize the TNC and BUR which started through the EU Budget Support has been discussed above, under the M&E chapter. Overall, limited financial resources are well used to create synergies and complementarities, addressing the key challenge of the Ethiopian government which is the lack of capacity given the high turnover of staff and to create the conditions for a future significant impact on the transparency actions for climate change.

4.3.2 Sustainability

Sustainability is built into Project design and should naturally flow from the focus on capacity building and training; however, the high turnover of civil servants in Ethiopia at all levels of management (senior, middle, and technical) and all levels of government (federal, regional, zone, woreda); the government reorganization

[8] The confirmation e-mail from the UNDP Environmental Finance is dated September 7th, 2023.

which has been ongoing for years and, conflicts in various regions of the country which absorb both attention and financial resources challenge the sustainability of the capacity building/strengthening programme which was implemented with relative success and satisfaction of stakeholders. On the other hand, the strict collaboration with other climate-change projects, the EU Budget Support *in primis* but also the UNDP Deep Dive&Climate Promise through the leadership of the EPA MRV Directorate contribute to sustainability. The MoMs of the PSC – which is integrated by technical staff of line ministries - document this collaboration which translates into information sharing, complementarities and synergies and mutual support.

Management has been able to do the best possible given the country's political complexities. Interviews confirm interest and appreciation for the trainings and technical assistance received and stakeholders count on a second phase of support, given the limited means put at the disposal of the Project and the need to sustain achievements, with a requirement for continuous training/capacity building to fight climate change.

Sustainability	Rating
Financial Resources	Moderately Likely
Socio-Political	Moderately Likely
Institutional Framework and governance	Moderately Likely
Environmental	Likely
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	Moderately Likely

4.3.2.1 Financial risks to sustainability

As a budget support directly delivered to the MoF, the EU SRPC has been a key financial resource which the CBIT has complemented through an effective and cost-efficient collaboration; as all actions are centered in EPA, financial decisions were easy to take and to implement, i.e. CBIT support for the final phases of the TNC and BUR which were deliverables under the EU investment.

Project design centered on the possibility that achievements in the fight against climate change and in the climate transparency framework could open the interest of development partners with new flows of financial resources, considering the strategic importance of the CRGE and the recognition of climate change as a cross-cutting contributing factor to the economic and social development of the country, which aims at attaining middle-income status by 2025. Financial assistance through UNFCCC and instruments related to the PA are conditional upon a country demonstrating transparency and conformity to quality standards in its GHG reporting, monitoring and planning of development interventions. Ethiopia receives significant financial aid from bilateral and multilateral partners to implement its prioritized national climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The updated NDC, with a conditional pledge to reduce GHG emissions by 68.8% by 2030 compared to the BAU projection is an ambitious target and requires an estimated total of $316 billion, with 80% of the funding expected to be mobilized from international climate finance sources, and the remaining cost domestically. A financial analysis and plan are necessary to ensure that at a certain moment national financing will be available to support the instruments and information system created for the collection, sharing and storing of climate data and for feeding and managing the MRV system. Expectantly, as the institutional context improves and local capacities are built and strengthened, awareness about the importance of the transparency framework increased and a larger number of civil servants and also citizens understand the challenges of climate change, the capacity to attract foreign resources improves; a second CBIT phase is already in pipeline and approved at concept stage. However, ongoing conflicts around the country absorb financial resources which cannot be diverted for the implementation of the CRGE and climate change related issues and the recent declaration of Ethiopia as a default country, unable to pay its debt, may affect the capacity to attract donors' investments and should be better analyzed in future months. Expectations are there for an International Monetary Fund program to support negotiating a comprehensive debt treatment through the G20's common framework.

4.2.2.2 Socio-political risks to sustainability

The political will existed to create an enabling institutional framework to seriously consider all climate actions necessary to sustain the country's development as well as responding to international requirements and commitments. Although interviews indicate that the current government maintains this ambition, and the MoPD remains committed to implement the CRGE and to respond to the PA requirements, the dismantling of the institutional set up for the implementation of the CRGE or at least the downgrading of many of the created units makes things more difficult. All activities related with the MRV and GHG are dealt by EPA, which is an authority and not a ministry, while wider climate change issues are dealt at higher level of the ministry, with a dedicated officer be recently nominated. In addition, much of the Government attention is captured by the security problems posed by the various conflicts ongoing around the country.

The CBIT Project has been obliged to work almost only at technical level, with low involvement of decision-makers. The CBIT Project has not invested in awareness raising activities for the public at large but mainly focused on institutional partners, at all levels of government, implementing a greatly appreciated training, conducted also at regional, zone, and woreda levels. The Project has not invested enough in documenting and sharing lessons learnt; yet reportedly, a knowledge sharing platform under the UNDP website is under construction. Partners have not been fully integrated in the consultative process since the approach with civil society and the private sector have not granted any result and most activities are implemented at technical level with almost no involvement of the decision-making level.

4.3.2.3 Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

Despite commitments and the policy thrust on a green economy, there are major obstacles in Ethiopia to access international climate funds, especially for the mitigation pillar in its CRGE strategy. The conditions for institutional sustainability were most promising at Project start, when the EFCCC had more convening capacity than the current EPA which has not the same decision-making authority of a ministry or a commission. In addition, at the time, each ministry hosted a CRGE unit, often at Directorate level, linked to the CRGE Facilities at the MoF; most of these units have been dismantled or downgraded, since the installation of the current government. EPA is not mandated to deal with wider climate change issues but has a restrictive focus on the coordination of the MRV activities at federal level, with line ministries responsible for MRV related actions within their sectoral remit, before through their CRGE units and now through a reduced number of technical officers, nominated for the purpose; different ministries accord the units/team varying degrees of priority and resources, and as a consequence, their performance vary (i.e. MoM only recently nominated somebody to work with the CBIT and the MoH did not); yet, through the EU Budget Support, MoUs have been signed between EPA and each ministry, identifying key roles and responsibilities to facilitate GHG data collection, report preparation and monitoring.

The basis of sustainability in CBIT projects are the efforts to create a conducive institutional and legal, framework; the quality of the partnership and the extent of the collaboration are evidently key elements of success and of sustainability. The CBIT Project in Ethiopia was impeded to create an inter-institutional permanent body for cooperation and collaboration among sectors as envisaged in Output 1.1; it created instead a technical working group, coinciding with the PSC and therefore holding overlapping and also contradictory functions from planning, implementing and overseeing their own activities; as decision-makers do not involve in it, the PSC/Technical Working Group does not have the required authority and the stability of a permanent inter-institutional body.

Within these limitations, the CBIT Project provided a valuable support to strengthening the GHG database and information system which feeds the MRV and to train different levels of stakeholders for the relative tasks. Participating stakeholders have developed a strong collaboration, allowing the share of information and the creation of good working relationships for the management of all MRV and GHGs related activities, even at regional and woreda level in some cases. Interviews confirm that training activities are largely appreciated, keen interest and even enthusiasm at technical level, and recognition of the importance of strengthening capacities for improving the overall process of collecting, managing, monitoring and reporting

climate change related data and information; tools developed (guidelines, QA/QC procedures), GHGs assessments made and the support given for the elaboration of the TNC and BUR strengthen skills and allow transfer of knowledge. The involvement of the four universities, with which a MoU is about to be signed has been quite successful and brings about an element of sustainability.

The institutional and technical sustainability and ownership of the MRV system is a function of: i) the commitments to collect, share and manage data; ii) the commitments to ensure the IT functioning of the online platform; iii) the training received by officials; iv) its being hosted within and managed by EPA. This appears to be relatively solid but still requires further consolidation through: i) a better involvement of decision makers, challenged by the frequent restructuring and staff turnover in the government (the bulk of it for higher management happened in 2022), which cause progress to be uneven in different ministries; ii) the unaltered adaptive management strategy implemented by the PM and the federal EPA team of a proactive and continuous communication with EPA and line ministries staff in the region and at local levels and, iii) the provision of continuous/refresher training given the extremely high turnover also of technical civil servants that when well-trained often leave in search of better career and salary opportunities; retraining is needed also for the fast-evolving environmental sciences sector which impact on the IPCC, BUR, and national communications guidelines, i.e. adoption of the Tier III technology and the Biannual Updated Report which is now Biannual Transparency Report, with new requirements; luckily, EPA staff is usually well stable in post, at all levels of management and has strongly been empowered to perform a leadership role for managing the MRV and the GHG database and Information System; iv) being proactive in involving all actors of society, including the private sector, NGOs, communities at least through awareness raising activities.

4.3.2.4 Environmental risks to sustainability

Due to the capacity building nature of the Project, there is no perceived environmental risks; whilst floods, drought and fire can occur, they are more likely to further reinforce the political will to implement the CRGE strategy with its climate resilient green economy and including the MRV and the GHGs systems more than impact on this Project's outputs. Implementation of activities are expected to have significant multiple environmental benefits, i.e. reduced deforestation and increased afforestation, reduced GHG emissions, improved ecosystem services and air quality, influencing and supporting the change towards a green economy. The more ambitious NDC, upgraded in 2021 from the 64% GHGs reduction to the current 68.8%, considering the different sectors with a horizon to 2030 reinforces commitments. Awareness raising activities are key for environmental sustainability and more could have been included in this Project; efforts should have been done to better document and disseminate experiences and lessons learnt.

4.3.3 Country Ownership

Country ownership has been extensively reported above, describing alignment of activities with national development policies and plans. The Project is in line with the requirements of and the commitments taken with the UNFCCC, the PA and CBIT-GEF objectives; it is well in line with the objective of the CRGE and of becoming a middle-income country by 2025. The new Government is struggling to face internal conflicts and security problems and have downgraded or even dismantled some of the CRGE units which were a sound institutional set up for the implementation of the CRGE but which could have been used to facilitate all transparency climate-related issues. Given the situation, technical staff are at the forefront with all key emitting sectors well represented and are in any case delegated enough authority to take the decisions necessary to implement the MRV system and related activities. The TNC and the first BUR have been finalized and submitted. A solid collaboration with the EU Budget Support has allowed achievements and should be documented as an example of good practice considering the usual competition arising among development partners. Government co-financing has been honored, possibly higher than originally envisaged considering the Project's extension, is a sign of interest and commitment.

The involvement of the private sector and of civil society is still non-existent and should be addressed with maximum priority. As women are those most at risk from the adverse effects of climate change, gender disaggregated data collection should be at the highest level of interest and appear in all related activities.

4.3.4 Gender equality and women's empowerment

In Ethiopia, women constitute nearly half of the country's population, and most of them are living in dire economic, poor working and living conditions, with endemic poverty. Cumulatively, women are therefore the most vulnerable and worst affected by climate change. It follows that any response to climate change be it capacity building, improvising resiliency, or mitigation should prioritize/mainstream them in implementation. Chapter 8 of the TYDP - *Gender and Social Inclusion* - mainly focus on empowering various sections of the society and enabling them to benefit from economic development through skills development, capacity building and equitable participation; in particular, attention is to be given to strengthening the overall system of social welfare and social protection in favor of women, children, the youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable citizens. Building women capacities at high level to participate on climate change issues, on matters relating to GHG emission inventory in a transparent manner will indisputably have positive chain reaction at the national level on the use of clean renewable energy and reduction in deforestation as women are the main users of energy (fuelwood). Currently the MoA adopted a gender mainstreaming guideline which is scantly implemented by woreda planners within the CRGE strategy.

A gender assessment within the line ministries earmarked for institutional and technical capacity development to comply with the PA and implement its Transparency requirements revealed a daunting picture on the gender imbalance within the work forces. The line ministries are conspicuously skewed and dominated by the male counterparts. Project design is rated as *GEN 2 or gender equality being as a significant objective*, with activities intended to prioritize women empowerment and participation in GHG emission Inventory and MRV, including: i) training more women in GHG emission inventory, MRV and transparency requirement; ii) involving them in workshops and decision making platforms; iii) increasing their membership in the permanent inter-ministerial body and iv) engage national women consultants in the implementation of the Project. The Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan included in the Pro Doc requested to consider women's contribution to the development of a climate change transparency framework in line with the PA and to assess how their participation in project activities would create opportunities so that women could contribute their knowledge and experience to strengthen the national transparency framework and create an enabling environment for a better climate change policy planning. The ProDoc Gender Action Plan was filled with good proposals but expressed unattainable targets, resulting in planning for failure. The gender imbalance within the work force has not changed during project development and efforts to involve women in training and capacities for PA has not produced desired effects, a specific monitoring of gender indicators has not been done, except for counting women presence in training and workshops. In practice, training activities have involved a reported number of 256 women over 986 participants; the PSC/technical working group has had the presence of a woman as representative of the MoWE but she is now replaced by a man; generally speaking the presence of women at technical and decision-making level in ministries remains extremely low; to note however that the Minister of Planning and Development is a lady; even in universities, the number of women at PHD level is quite low.

4.3.5 Cross-cutting issues

The fight against climate change is a cross-cutting factor for the economic and social development of the country; this is widely and increasingly being recognized by institutional stakeholders and in the CRGE strategy and in the TYDP. The CBIT Project directly contributes towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. During Project implementation, collaboration with the EU Budget Support allowed the elaboration of the TNC, the BUR, setting up the MRV and developing capacities for its management; all activities contribute to fulfill the requirements of the PA and UNFCCC; the Project directly contributes towards SDG N. 13 Fight against Climate Change.

The involvement of a large number of institutions at national and local level, including the academia is paramount; it is only when decision-making is structured in a way to ensure inclusiveness and that all stakeholders receive satisfactory levels of benefits and equity that this translates into a critical element of sustainability, in addition to be also respectful of human rights; unfortunately the involvement of the private sector and civil society is practically non-existent which is instead paramount to respond to the specific human right of wide and equitable delivery of information and benefits; efforts are needed to involve NGOs, CSOs, the private sector and end beneficiaries; attention to women participation is attempted but certainly below equity, although this is due to existing cultural conditions over which management could not do much.

At Project start, there were already ongoing funded initiatives on MRV with similar objectives and similar underlining theories of change to improve compliance with the PA and the transparency framework; this has contributed to partly overcome some of the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic's restrictions, created synergies and mutual reinforcement for a more holistic and resilient structure of policy interventions and improved legitimacy. Partnerships help to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits and wide access to environmental information, an approach compatible with participation and the inclusion of the principle of human rights, for environmental and socio-economic governance and contribute to poverty alleviation.

The Project is well integrated in the UNDP environment portfolio, generating added value to other projects and contributing to the national policy discussion on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Collaboration with other UNDP projects, i.e. the Deep Dive &Climate Promise which even participates to the PSC. Unfortunately, documenting and sharing experiences has not yet been done in a way to become relevant for national stakeholders as well as for other countries in the region. Sharing of experience, leveraging knowledge and skills for replication and upscaling are in line with the UNDP's approach to support South-South and Triangular Cooperation to maximize the impact of development, hasten poverty eradication, and accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

4.3.6 GEF additionality

In terms of GEF's additionality, the CBIT Project definitely helps institutional stakeholders to approach a transformational change for climate change through an integrated approach in partnership with linked projects, making transparency on climate change a shared objective and an important element of the Government's planning and policies. Sustainable environmental and climate change management results from increasing the capacities of diverse stakeholders to understand the importance of producing meaningful data, sharing and managing them as well as reporting in a way to answer international requirements and commitments. Efforts to create a conducive legal and institutional environment promote critical thinking at institutional level, informing decision-making.

Working on transparency is key for every country; much more can be done with an effective involvement of stakeholders outside the government, especially the private sector which plays a key role in climate change and may become an important partner in development instead than an obstacle as well as civil society for equity reasons and for socially sustaining the actions promoted.

4.3.7 Catalytic/Replication Effect

Project results, experiences and lessons learned still wait to be consolidated in a document or platform to be shared through the UNDP and EPA websites, especially tailored for national stakeholders but available also for regional and international ones, providing access to the knowledge generated. At present, it is acknowledged only the sharing of projects documents through EPA websites and the production of a 5 minutes video on projects results. Much more should be done to ensure that best practices and lessons learned are shared with other countries facing similar challenges under the reinforced transparency framework, to boost a catalytic and replication potential of the activities. The successful collaboration

between UNDP, EU and EPA is certainly an example of best practice, not frequent in the development arena and is worthy to be valued and shared.

4.3.8 Progress to Impact

The PA marked a new era in climate policy and a new imperative to accelerate climate action with an ultimate goal to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to ensure that efforts are pursued to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C. All countries were called to review their NDCs to reducing GHGs emissions every five years, adopting more ambitious commitments. The Project is effectively aligned to national priorities through the CRGE strategy, the TYDP and the country's NDC and institutional stakeholders are increasingly becoming aware of the cross-cutting importance of the fight against climate change as a key factor for social and economic development in Ethiopia; yet, strong institutional, political and financial challenges remain.

Ethiopia aims at building a climate-resilient net zero emission economy by 2030. The CRGE is the tool identified to achieve the country's objective of achieving middle-income status by 2025 while developing a green economy and its ambitious net zero emissions. The CRGE strategy anchors on five development sectors (Agriculture, Forest, Industry, Transport, Urban, Waste and Energy). In 2021 Ethiopia submitted the updated NDC, with an ambition of 68.8% reduction emission by 2030 from its BAU scenario, reaffirming its commitment to strengthen the resilience of economic sectors and strengthening the contribution of the agriculture and forestry sectors. Collaborating with the EU SRPC and even financially supporting some of its final activities, the CBIT Project effectively contributed to the elaboration of the TNC and the first BUR which were presented to the UNFCCC in 2023. Although these were not activities envisaged under the CBIT, together with the establishment of the GHG database and MRV Information Systems, they represent a clear contribution towards UNFCCC and the PA Transparency requirements and a deliver towards its NDC commitments; at the same time, they contribute towards the main objective of fostering growth through green technologies and pursuing sustainable development at all levels and of collaborating with national and international partners to pursue a decarbonized, resilient and solidarity path.

Evidently policies will be successful only if fully implemented and tracking their progress is paramount. The MRV system is an indispensable supporting tool for decision-making with regard to mitigation actions and strategies, informing governments on the status of their NDCs and on compliance with the PA Enhanced Transparency Framework; it allows for accountability, documenting: 1) reductions in GHG emissions, 2) co-benefits of sustainable development such as job creation, wealth creation, among others, and 3) support (received or provided). The expected CBIT phase II should be there to strengthen actions implemented.

Ethiopia's objectives are strongly constrained by a lack of reliable GHG data and a lack of human, technological and financial capacities. The CBIT has strongly contributed to increase capacities with a wide training programme implemented at all levels and well completing at regional and local level some of the training delivered through the EU initiative. Facilitated by the fact that the EU financial flow was channeled as a Budget Support and not as a project, cooperation and collaboration between the EU, UNDP and EPA has been a key element of a strong partnership which allowed an efficient and effective utilization of resources, avoiding duplication of efforts; in terms of capacity building, high level training was delivered by EU initially but the strong training component of the CBIT reached out to all level of governments, with an important involvement of regions; CBIT also provided logistical support in an instrumental way for the success of the activities. Clearly, the system will be as effective as users will be willing to share information and therefore to feed it with data and according to the quality of the data available. The process will certainly lead to evidence the need for more quantity and quality data, including technical collection methods challenges. Commendably, the University of Addis Ababa, Center for Environmental Sciences is about to sign a MoU with EPA to ensure continuous training through the creation of a GHG specific training hub.

Institutionally the CBIT Project lays a not perfect but still good foundation, given the political and institutional complexities; the partnerships created at technical level with key institutions that have a critical role in

Ethiopia's MRV system are a good start. Notwithstanding, more significant results have been affected by the reorganization/restructuring within various ministries of the government that weakened the manpower capacity; by the frequent turnover of staff and also the quick evolution of environmental sciences and guidelines for GHGs which implies continuous training and retraining. The lack of involvement of senior management translates into the envisaged permanent inter-institutional body to be limited to a technical working group, coinciding with the PSC where understanding of the technicalities and strong collaboration prevail but performing conflictive roles and been granted less authority and capacity to influence policy and the regulatory system than expected.

The CBIT Project mainly operates at public level, outreaching to the regions, city administrations, zones and woredas; it does not involve civil society, NGOs, and the private sector; it collaborates well with universities, which are key to produce deliverables and provide advisory service. Despite efforts to involve women in trainings, results are still under equity requirements, and even planning in the ProDoc; at present no woman integrates the PSC/technical working group. The collection of sex-disaggregated data is paramount considering that climate change tends to have worser impact on women than on men due to their specific roles in agriculture and forestry.

Interviews reveal commitment, an increasing recognition of the importance of a climate transparency framework and of the significance of fighting climate change as a cross-cutting factor for the country's social and economic development. Trainings allowed to build/increase institutional capacities for data collection and management, overall contributing to coordinating line ministries' activities, ensuring that all the GHG emission sectors are covered. The EPA MRV Directorate certainly was strengthened and further empowered in its role of coordination of the MRV and related activities; this is quite relevant as EPA is a young institution, requiring capacities.

By ensuring transparency on climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, the country intends to attract both financial and technological flows for achieving the green economy; however, the recent declaration of Ethiopia as a default country poses a question mark and challenges its capacity to attract new funds for its current incapacity to repay its only obligation debt. Notwithstanding, a second GEF phase of the CBIT appears already secured.

5. CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The Project is **relevant** in relation to the GEF CBIT strategies, aligned with UNDP policies and plans and instrumental for implementing activities to close the technical and capacity building gaps to answer national and international requirements for climate change mitigation, adaptation and transparency. The Project developed in parallel with the EU Budget Support and later on other UNDP supported activities, overall contributing to the same objectives with an unusual level of complementarity and synergy. It is in line with national ambitions to implement the CRGE strategy, to reduce GHGs and acquire the necessary tools and skills to respond to the UNFCCC and PA requirements; this is as well in line with the needs of end women and men beneficiaries who suffer the nefarious consequences of climate change.

The Project construction is simple, straightforward in the conception of outcomes and outputs but confused and repetitive in the description of activities towards outputs. The Project is a direct answer to some of the barriers identified in different needs assessments; relevance and validity are maintained throughout the various implementation phases. Project design has never been adapted, although expressing an objective indicator too wide for the Project and not tailored to the specific objective (almost impossible to change it at that level of GEF projects).

The Project obtains the UNDP CO's substantial financial support and training to control expenses and ensure coherence with UNDP policies and procedures. **M&E is rated moderately satisfactory but efficiency is provided an encouraging satisfactory rating** as implementation delays are mostly a consequence of elements outside management control; yet, the use of M&E tools was quite inefficient, with a low quality of reporting, the infrequent presence of the UNDP CO in the meetings of the PSC and a PSC integrated by technicians playing overlapping and conflicting roles, overall losing the oversight and guidance typical of this entity. Nonetheless, the **effectiveness of performance is satisfactory:** within a difficult institutional context, EPA expressed substantial leadership, management well collaborated with development partners and the choice to work at technical level - not ideal to attain envisaged achievement - has anyway turned out the only right choice to deliver against planning, overall obtaining satisfactory results. Collaborating with the EU SRPC and even financially supporting some of its final activities, the CBIT Project effectively contributed to the elaboration of the TNC and the first BUR which were presented to the UNFCCC in 2023 which are clear contributions towards UNFCCC and the PA Transparency framework. Management has been able to do the best possible given the country's political complexities. Interviews confirm interest and appreciation for the trainings and technical assistance received and stakeholders count on a second phase of support, given the limited means put at the disposal of the Project and the need to sustain achievements, with a requirement for continuous training/capacity building to fight climate change.

Sustainability is built into Project design and should naturally flow from the focus on capacity building and training; however, challenges and barriers remain to address its various layers and consolidate achievements: Institutionally: the GHG database and Information System was an objective both under this project and under the EU Budget Support; collaboration allowed to establish the system, develop guidelines, train staff and overall contribute to feed the MRV system; capacities increased but the high turnover of civil servants remain the main challenge in Ethiopia and require continuous capacity building; the complexity of the subjects and the continuous evolving requirements of the PA transparency framework require retraining and refresh training at all levels of government; interinstitutional collaboration is manifest at technical level but requires the involvement of decision-makers and senior managers towards its institutionalization which is challenged by the downgrading of the CRGE set up, uncomplete government reshuffling and MRV and GHG systems being dealt at technical level without properly addressing them within the wider climate change picture. The CBIT Project mainly operates at public level, outreaching to the regions, city administrations, zones and woredas; it does not involve civil society, NGOs, and the private sector. The academia has been well involved in technical activities to develop QC/QA procedures and guidelines; in the training and to provide advisory service to regional and federal experts but they do not participate in the PSC. Financially: the expectation of

a flow of new financial resources as achievements towards the transparency framework were reached and a more ambitious NDC expressed is challenged by ongoing conflicts around the country which absorb financial resources and attention of leaders and the recent declaration of Ethiopia as a default country, unable to pay its debt; a financial analysis and plan is required and the situational analysis conducted in 2021 is certainly outdated; a CBIT phase II is however secured. The Socio-political picture is uncertain with stakeholder confirming that the downgraded CRGE set up does not correspond to a diminished interest and commitment of the government towards implementing the strategy ad addressing climate change challenges but a system to reinforce and reinvigorate at leadership level the inter-institutional collaboration needs to be found. Stakeholders' participation should be enhanced, involving decision-makers in training and consultative meetings, opening to civil society and the private sector and ensuring women are not underrepresented in training and events; their participation remain under equity requirements.

Impact is only incipient. Interviews reveal commitment towards the implementation of climate actions and the climate transparency requirements. Institutionally the CBIT Project lays a not perfect but still good foundation, given the political and institutional complexities; the partnerships created at technical level with key institutions that have a critical role in Ethiopia's MRV system are a good start. Notwithstanding, more significant results have been affected by the reorganization/restructuring within various ministries of the government that weakened the manpower capacity; by the frequent turnover of staff and also the quick evolution of environmental sciences and guidelines for GHGs which implies continuous training and retraining. The lack of involvement of senior management translates into the envisaged permanent inter-institutional body to be limited to a technical working group, coinciding with the PSC where understanding of the technicalities and strong collaboration prevail but performing conflictive roles and been granted less authority and capacity to influence policy and the regulatory system than expected. Trainings allowed to build/increase institutional capacities for data collection and management, overall contributing to coordinating line ministries' activities, ensuring that all the GHG emission sectors are covered. The EPA MRV Directorate certainly was strengthened and further empowered in its role of coordination of the MRV and related activities; this is quite relevant as EPA is a young institution, requiring capacities.

5.2 Lessons Learned

The CBIT Project has generated in Ethiopia a number of useful lessons for the country but also for the region, especially for those countries sharing similar objectives for their climate change transparency systems.

L.1 Government reshuffling always poses challenges; working at technical level diminishes the capacity to influence policies and the setting up of an institutional and legal framework but still allows steps towards creating the conditions to effectively answer commitments under the UNFCCC and PA framework. The Project has been able to achieve results because activities are implemented through a technical working group with enough capacity to take decisions; yet, this diminishes its capacity to influence policies and the institutional and legal framework. These are processes that in any case take time and requires continuous support.

L.2 Collaboration among development partners under the full ownership of the government is a key for success. The collaboration between the CBIT Project and the EU SRPC has allowed creating synergies and complementarities, reaching out where one project alone would not have been successful. Full ownership and coordination of the EPA was a *conditio sine qua non*. The experience is extremely valuable and should be given appropriate dissemination.

L3. The fight against climate change is a cross-cutting issue for which transparency is paramount and requires a large consultative process at government but also at non-government level, with an effective leadership. Impact is manifesting because EPA is fully appropriate of the actions proposed and effectively promotes collaboration and dialogue across sectors at technical level; yet, the national dialogue requires to be brought up to leadership level and involve all sectors of society, including civil society and the private sector.

L.4 The link between gender and climate challenges remains not widely understood. It is not enough to establish targets in the PRF to ensure gender equity; in climate change related projects, all parties should be well aware that climate data needs to be gender-disaggregated as the consequences of climate change are worse on women than on men and this aspect should be at the centre of the decision-making process. Establishing targets disconnected from the context only leads to planning for failure.

5.2 Recommendations

Recommendations are tailored to improve the sustainability of the CBIT actions, provide inputs for the upcoming CBIT Phase II, already in pipeline and, share experiences to inform the design of similar projects.

Table N.11 Recommendations

N.	Recommendation	Responsible entity	Timeframe
A	**Design – Management - Monitoring & Evaluation**		
A.1	**Ensure full adoption of all monitoring tools available and greatly improve the narrative and the construction of PIRs.** Writing in English may have prevented an improved narrative in PIRs but more can be done to make these reports fully informative, well-referencing deliverables with appropriate links and providing well substantiated ratings.	Management and UNDP CO	For final report and future projects
A.2	**Ensure the PSC is well participated and independent from the implementing partners.** Planning and implementing are roles which should be separated from oversight. The PSC should be well-participated by all members identified, including UNDP CO, and perform its guidance role.	Management and UNDP CO	For future projects
B	**Sustainability**		
B.1	**Continue training but also open to awareness activities.** Training and re-training is a must in Ethiopia and it is not even necessary to make it a recommendation as well considered at all levels. If conditions open for induction and high-level training for decision-makers, the opportunity should be taken. Awareness raising should target the wider society, with civil society, NGOs and the private sector at the forefront. Documenting and sharing experiences is required in-country and within the East Africa region.	EPA/Management	Future projects
B.2	**Move the dialogue from EPA on the MRV/GHG systems to embrace the overall national dialogue on climate change at leadership level, increasingly opening to civil society and the private sector.** Results of the existing technical working group are undeniable but the work should be upgraded to	MoPD/EPA	Under the current politics and other ongoing and future

	the wider climate change, involving decision-makers and opening to the private sector and civil society as partners in development. It is not a question of creating too many inter-ministerial bodies but to empower it with the necessary capacity to influence policy, the institutional and legal framework and provide the right level of leadership to ensure a credible MRV and quality control system for sharing information and data across institutions well linked to mitigation and adaptation policies.		climate-related projects
B.3	**Develop a financial analysis and financial plan for sustaining the MRV and GHG database and inventory systems.** Actual work to identify needs in terms of budget support is outdated and should be finalized, including ways to support the MRV and the GHG database and information systems with due consideration for the economic difficulties of the country, recently emerged.	EPA/Management	Possibly a solid outline before project's end
B.4	**Keep track of people trained.** Considering the high turnover of civil servants and the important resources invested in training and capacity development, trained people should be evaluated and potential candidates be part of a structured list to be able to recall people at any time in the future	EPA/Management	Before Project end

Annex A – Terms of Reference,

Terminal Evaluation Terms of Reference (ToR) Template for UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects

Template 1 - formatted for attachment to the UNDP Procurement website

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full- and medium-sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed projects are required to undergo a Terminal Evaluation (TE) at the end of the project. This Terms of Reference (ToR) sets out the expectations for the TE of the *medium-sized* project titled **Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level** (PIMS# 6208) implemented through the *Federal Environmental Protection Authority*. The project started on *July 2020*, and is in its *4th* year of implementation. The TE process must follow the guidance outlined in the document 'Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluations of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects' (https://erc.undp.org/pdf/TE_GuidanceforUNDP-supportedGEF-financedProjects.pdf).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is a party to UNFCCC and is required to report all its GHG emissions and reduction efforts periodically as per the Paris Agreement and requirement. Accordingly, the Paris Agreement calls for Transparency in reporting for the GHG emissions to track both the emissions and the efforts given to the developing countries. Whilst the country is committed to global efforts of reducing GHG emissions through its Climate Resilient Green Economy, the country lacks the proper technical and institutional capacity to adhere to the Paris Agreement Frameworks. This challenge will inhibit the country to benefits from the financial and technological flows which have been identified as critical to the attainment of the country's ambitious target of middle income by 2025. The project seeks to close the existing technical and institutional capacity challenges by enhancing institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency in Ethiopia.

The project is getting strategic leadership from the National Steering Committee (NSC) which is responsible for strategic decisions while guidance is required by the Project Manager, including recommendation for UNDP/Implementing partner approval of project plans and revisions. The NSC members are drawn from key stakeholder institutions including Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)Chair; UNDP (Co-chair); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Water and Energy ; Ministry of Finance (MoF); Ministry of Industry; Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Transport and Logistics and Forest Development.

Since the initiation in July 2020,the CBIT project has scored remarkable achievements on institutional and technical for insuring transparency at national level. The project has supported establishment of inter-ministerial body; a functional national GHG emission system and database; provide training on IPCC 2006 software, Paris Agreement and Transparency; provision of technical support for regions and city administration on data collection and mitigation; Through these activities it contributed towards strengthened institutional and technical capacity skills, monitor and report in a transparent manner and it has contributed to increasing the number of national experts within the line ministries. Furthermore, An Assessment has been made on mitigation policy measures for waste management, railway transit and biofuel and a guideline for their formulation developed. The project has supported the preparation of the Third National Communication (TNC)

and Biennial Update Report (BUR) submitted to UNFCCC. The project developed a general and sector specific cross cutting Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) plan which is a fundamental elements to improve transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy of national greenhouse gasses inventory.

The project has passed through Mid-Term review by independent consultant whose report will be used as one of the inputs for this Terminal Evaluation. The project is implemented at federal level by the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority in partnership with different like minded organizations.

3. TE PURPOSE

The purpose of the evaluation is to provide an in-depth assessment of the results against the three OUTCOMES of the project and performance in terms of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, inclusiveness, participation, accountability and transparency. The TE report will assess the achievement of project results against what was expected to be achieved, and draw lessons that can both improve the sustainability of benefits from this project, and aid in the overall enhancement of UNDP programming. The TE report promotes accountability and transparency, and assesses the extent of project accomplishments.

The TE will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results during the remaining project lifetime. The TE will also review the projects' risks to sustainability.

4. TE APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The TE report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The Terminal Evaluator will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, lesson learned reports, national strategic and legal documents, Mid-Term Review report and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based evaluation. The Terminal Evaluator will review the baseline and midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at the CEO endorsement and midterm stages and the terminal Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the TE field mission begins.

The TE consultant is expected to follow a participatory and consultative approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), Implementing Partners, the UNDP Country Office(s), the Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful TE. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have project responsibilities, including but not limited to *(Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water and Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure and Ministry of Transport and Logistics)*; executing agencies, senior officials and task team/component leaders, key experts and consultants in the subject area, Project Board, project beneficiaries, academia, local government and CSOs, etc. Additionally, the TE team is not expected to conduct field missions since the project is implemented at Federal level.

The specific design and methodology for the TE should emerge from consultations between the TE team and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the TE purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The TE team must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the TE report.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the evaluation must be clearly outlined in the TE Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders, and the TE team.

The final report must describe the full TE approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the evaluation.

5. DETAILED SCOPE OF THE TE

The TE will assess project performance against expectations set out in the project's Logical Framework/Results Framework (see ToR Annex A). The TE will assess results according to the criteria outlined in the Guidance for TEs of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects (TE_GuidanceforUNDP-supportedGEF-financedProjects.pdf).

The evaluation process and method will follow Knowledge Management Approach - because Learning and knowledge management. Final Report: The project's terminal PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

The Findings section of the TE report will cover the topics listed below. A full outline of the TE report's content is provided in ToR Annex C.

The asterisk "(*)" indicates criteria for which a rating is required.

Findings

i. Project Design/Formulation

- National priorities and country driven-ness
- Theory of Change
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)
- Analysis of Results Framework: project logic and strategy, indicators
- Assumptions and Risks
- Lessons from other relevant projects (e.g. same focal area) incorporated into project design
- Planned stakeholder participation
- Linkages between project and other interventions within the sector
- Management arrangements

ii. Project Implementation

- Adaptive management (changes to the project design and project outputs during implementation)
- Actual stakeholder participation and partnership arrangements
- Project Finance and Co-finance
- Monitoring & Evaluation: design at entry (*), implementation (*), and overall assessment of M&E (*)
- Implementing Agency (UNDP) (*) and Executing Agency (*), overall project oversight/implementation and execution (*)
- Risk Management, including Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

iii. Project Results

- Assess the achievement of outcomes against indicators by reporting on the level of progress for each objective and outcome indicator at the time of the TE and noting final achievements
- Relevance (*), Effectiveness (*), Efficiency (*) and overall project outcome (*)
- Sustainability: financial (*) , socio-political (*), institutional framework and governance (*), environmental (*), overall likelihood of sustainability (*)
- Country ownership
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Cross-cutting issues (poverty alleviation, improved governance, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster prevention and recovery, human rights, capacity development, South-South cooperation, knowledge management, volunteerism, etc., as relevant)
- GEF Additionality
- Catalytic Role / Replication Effect
- Progress to impact

Main Findings, Conclusions, Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- The TE team will include a summary of the main findings of the TE report. Findings should be presented as statements of fact that are based on analysis of the data.
- The section on conclusions will be written in light of the findings. Conclusions should be comprehensive and balanced statements that are well substantiated by evidence and logically connected to the TE findings. They should highlight the strengths, weaknesses and results of the project, respond to key evaluation questions and provide insights into the identification of and/or solutions to important problems or issues pertinent to project beneficiaries, UNDP and the GEF, including issues in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Recommendations should provide concrete, practical, feasible and targeted recommendations directed to the intended users of the evaluation about what actions to take and decisions to make. The recommendations should be specifically supported by the evidence and linked to the findings and conclusions around key questions addressed by the evaluation.
- The TE report should also include lessons that can be taken from the evaluation, including best practices in addressing issues relating to relevance, performance and success that can provide knowledge gained from the particular circumstance (programmatic and evaluation methods used, partnerships, financial leveraging, etc.) that are applicable to other GEF and UNDP interventions. When possible, the TE team should include examples of good practices in project design and implementation.

- It is important for the conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned of the TE report to incorporate gender equality and empowerment of women.

The TE report will include an Evaluation Ratings Table, as shown below:

ToR Table 2: Evaluation Ratings Table for *(*Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level*)*

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating[9]
M&E design at entry	
M&E Plan Implementation	
Overall Quality of M&E	
Implementation & Execution	**Rating**
Quality of UNDP Implementation/Oversight	
Quality of Implementing Partner Execution	
Overall quality of Implementation/Execution	
Assessment of Outcomes	**Rating**
Relevance	
Effectiveness	
Efficiency	
Overall Project Outcome Rating	
Sustainability	**Rating**
Financial resources	
Socio-political/economic	
Institutional framework and governance	
Environmental	
Overall Likelihood of Sustainability	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the TE will be approximately *25 working days* over a time period of *(8 weeks)* starting on and shall not exceed five months from when the consultant(s) are hired. The tentative TE timeframe is as follows

Timeframe	Activity
(Sep23 – 25, 2023) 3 days	Document review and preparation of TE Inception Report
(Sep 26-27, 2023) 2 days	Finalization and Validation of TE Inception Report; latest start of TE mission
(Sep 30 – Oct. 10, 2023) 10 days	TE mission: stakeholder meetings, interviews, etc.
(Oct. 11, 2023) 1 day	Mission wrap-up meeting & presentation of initial findings; earliest end of TE mission
(Oct 17, 2023) 6 days	Preparation of draft TE report

[9] Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight & Execution, Relevance are rated on a 6-point scale: 6=Highly Satisfactory (HS), 5=Satisfactory (S), 4=Moderately Satisfactory (MS), 3=Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), 2=Unsatisfactory (U), 1=Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). Sustainability is rated on a 4-point scale: 4=Likely (L), 3=Moderately Likely (ML), 2=Moderately Unlikely (MU), 1=Unlikely (U)

Oct 18,2023 1 day	Circulation of draft TE report for comments
Oct 21, 2023 3 days	Incorporation of comments on draft TE report into Audit Trail & finalization of TE report
Oct 25 2023 4 days	Preparation and Issuance of Management Response
Oct 30, 2023 5 days	Concluding Stakeholder Workshop (optional)
Nov 05, 2023 5 days	Expected date of full TE completion

Options for site visits should be provided in the TE Inception Report.

7. TE DELIVERABLES

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing	Responsibilities
1	TE Inception Report	TE team clarifies objectives, methodology and timing of the TE	No later than 2 weeks before the TE mission: *(Sep 30- Oct 10,2023)*	TE team submits Inception Report to Commissioning Unit and project management
2	Presentation	Initial Findings	End of TE mission: *(Oct 30,2023)*	TE team presents to Commissioning Unit and project management
3	Draft TE Report	Full draft report *(using guidelines on report content in ToR Annex C)* with annexes	Within 3 weeks of end of TE mission: *(Nov 05,2023)*	TE team submits to Commissioning Unit; reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, GEF OFP
5	Final TE Report* + Audit Trail	Revised final report and TE Audit trail in which the TE details how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final TE report *(See template in ToR Annex H)*	Within 1 week of receiving comments on draft report: *Oct 21,2023)*	TE team submits both documents to the Commissioning Unit

*All final TE reports will be quality assessed by the UNDP Independent Evaluation Office (IEO). Details of the IEO's quality assessment of decentralized evaluations can be found in Section 6 of the UNDP Evaluation Guidelines.[10]

8. TE ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing the TE resides with the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's TE is the UNDP- Ethiopia Country office.

The Commissioning Unit will contract the evaluators and the Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the TE team to provide all relevant documents, set up stakeholder interviews, and arrange field visits. The project team will also arrange workshops and the project will cover all related expenses.

9. TE TEAM COMPOSITION

[10] Access at: http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/section-6.shtml

Independent *evaluator* will conduct the TE – *with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions and he/she* will *(add details, as appropriate, e.g. be responsible for the overall design and writing of the TE report, etc.)* The expert will *(add details, as appropriate, e.g. assess emerging trends with respect to regulatory frameworks, budget allocations, capacity building, work with the Project Team in developing the TE itinerary, etc.)*

The evaluator(s) cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation and/or implementation (including the writing of the project document), must not have conducted this project's Mid-Term Review and should not have a conflict of interest with the project's related activities.

It is also important to note that TE team need have to be feasible enough and have detail on management structures and implementation of the study/assessment with the consideration that team members are able or not to operate remotely considering COVID 19 protocols. Thus, it requires empirical experience for a provision for experience in implementing evaluations remotely.

The selection of evaluators will be aimed at maximizing the overall "team" qualities in the following areas:

Education

- A Master's degree in Climate Change Adaptation, Environment Management, Natural Resource Management), or other closely related field, or other closely related field.;

Experience

- Relevant experience with results-based management evaluation methodologies;
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to Land Degradation, or Biodiversity or IAP-Food Security;
- Experience in evaluating projects;
- Experience working in *Africa;*
- Experience in relevant technical areas for at least *10 years;*
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender and Land Degradation, or Biodiversity or IAP-Food Security; experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis.
- Excellent communication skills;
- Demonstrable analytical skills;
- Project evaluation/review experience within United Nations system will be considered an asset.

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English.

10. EVALUATOR ETHICS

The TE team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The evaluator must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The evaluator must also ensure security of collected information before and after the evaluation and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information knowledge and data gathered in the evaluation process must also be solely used for the evaluation and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

11. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 20% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final TE Inception Report and approval by the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the draft TE report to the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final TE report and approval by the Commissioning Unit and RTA (via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form) and delivery of completed TE Audit Trail

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%[11]:

- The final TE report includes all requirements outlined in the TE TOR and is in accordance with the TE guidance.
- The final TE report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other TE reports).
- The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.

12. APPLICATION PROCESS[12]

(Adjust this section if a vetted roster will be used)

Recommended Presentation of Proposal:

a) **Letter of Confirmation of Interest and Availability** using the template[13] provided by UNDP;
b) **CV** and a **Personal History Form** (P11 form[14]);
c) Brief description **of approach to work/technical proposal** of why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment, and a proposed methodology on how they will approach and complete the assignment; (max 1 page)
d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price and all other travel related costs (such as flight ticket, per diem, etc), supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template attached to the Letter of Confirmation of Interest template. If an applicant is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the applicant must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

All application materials should be submitted to the address (insert mailing address) in a sealed envelope indicating the following reference "Consultant for Terminal Evaluation of **Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level**"

[11] The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the TE team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the TE team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details: https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

[12] Engagement of evaluators should be done in line with guidelines for hiring consultants in the POPP https://popp.undp.org/SitePages/POPPRoot.aspx

[13] https://intranet.undp.org/unit/bom/pso/Support%20documents%20on%20IC%20Guidelines/Template%20for%20Confirmation%20of%20Interest%20and%20Submission%20of%20Financial%20Proposal.docx

[14] http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/corporate/Careers/P11_Personal_history_form.doc

or by email at the following address ONLY: *(insert email address)* by *(time and date)*. Incomplete applications will be excluded from further consideration.

Criteria for Evaluation of Proposal: Only those applications which are responsive and compliant will be evaluated. Offers will be evaluated according to the Combined Scoring method – where the educational background and experience on similar assignments will be weighted at 70% and the price proposal will weigh as 30% of the total scoring. The applicant receiving the Highest Combined Score that has also accepted UNDP's General Terms and Conditions will be awarded the contract.

13. TOR ANNEXES

(Add the following annexes to the final ToR)

- ToR Annex A: Project Logical/Results Framework
- ToR Annex B: Project Information Package to be reviewed by TE team
- ToR Annex C: Content of the TE report
- ToR Annex D: Evaluation Criteria Matrix template
- ToR Annex E: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators
- ToR Annex F: TE Rating Scales
- ToR Annex G: TE Report Clearance Form
- ToR Annex H: TE Audit Trail

Annex B – Documents consulted/available for consultation

General documents

- TORs for the Terminal Evaluation
- UNDP Guidance for Conducting Terminal Evaluation of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects (2020 revision)
- United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Ethiopia 2020 to 2025, replacing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Ethiopia 2016-2020
- The Ten-Year Perspective Development Plan (2021 – 2030) of Ethiopia Aligned to Agenda 2063 and The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.
- UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP)

Project documents

- Project Document: Capacity-building program to comply with the Paris Agreement and implement its transparency requirements at the national level (PIMS#6208)
- GEF Project Identification Form (PIF)
- Project Inception Workshop Report, October 27, 2020
- CEO Endorsement Request and Letter
- Project Steering Committee MoMs (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2022 ad hoc)
- Project, Project Implementation Reports, UNDP/GEF 2022 and 2023
- Mid-Term Review, Draft Final Report, March 2023
- Proof of stakeholders and beneficiaries' participation to different trainings (attached to the MTR)
- Annual Work Plan 2021 and 2022
- Note to the File CBIT Ethiopia
- Results of the capacity assessment of the project implementing partner and HACT micro assessment
- Project Tracking Tools and Core Indicators (Initial)
- Original Gender Analysis and Action Plan
- Co-financing letters: from the Environment, Forest & Climate Change Commission and from UNDP, both of November 2018
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Audit report, 2021
- CBIT project achievements
- Documents supporting the extension of the Project
- Communication and Knowledge Management material
- List of related projects/initiatives contributing to project objectives
- Development of Quality Control and Quality Assurance Plan for Green House Gas Inventory Report, June 2022
- Dire Dawa GHG Emissions Inventory Report 2018
- Oromia National Regional State GHG Emissions Inventory Report 2018
- Final First Biennial Update Report (FBUR) of Ethiopia, July 2023
- Final TNC of Ethiopia
- Report on Assessment of GHG Mitigation Policy for Waste Management, Light Transit and Biofuel, FEPA, June 2022
- General GHG Mitigation Policy Assessment Guideline, FEPA, June 2022
- Final Mitigation action report
- 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution
- Power Points summarized annual reports for EPA

Annex C – Itinerary, and Institutions/People interviewed: Dec. 2023 and Jan. 2024

Task/Interview	Date – Time	Location	Contact
Interviews with the Implementing Agency UNDP and GEF staff in October 2023 by Elena Laura Ferretti			
-Mr. Girma Workie, GEF Programme Specialist, UNDP CO	21 Dec.		girma.workie@undp.org
-Mr. Brahanau Alamu, M&E Specialist, UNDP CO	5 Jan.		berhanu.alemu@undp.org
Mrs. Wubua Mekonnen, Team Leader, Climate Change & Environment, UNDP CO	12 Jan.		
Mrs. Eden Habtemariam, Financial Officer, UNDP CO	12 Jan		eden.habtemariam@undp.org
-Mrs. Thania Eloina Felix Canedo, UNDP RTA	28 Dic		thania.eloina.felix.canedo@undp.org
Interviews with key stakeholders and informant			
-Mr. Getnet Abate, UNDP CBIT Project manager, Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	20 Dec. 3, 4, 11 Jan	Kick-off	getnet.abate@undp.org
- Mrs. Benti Firdissa, Director GHG MRV Directorate (CBIT Focal Person in EPA)	2 Jan		bentifirdissamblb04@gmail.com +251912105438
- Mr. Fasika Bekele, ICT Director of EPA for the Database System	2 Jan		Mobile: +251 910 154 428 E-mail: fasigabekele@gmail.com Website: www.epa.gov.et
-Mr. Fisseha Alemoyehu, Finance Officer, EPA	09 Jan		
-Mr. Yizengoul Yitayih, Climate Change Senior Expert, Min. of Transport and Logistics -Mr. Esmael Mohammed, Team Leader, Climate Change, Min. of Industry - Mr. Heiru Sebrala Ahmed, Director, Forest Resources Assessment & Monitoring Directorate, Ethiopian Forestry Development - Mr. Birhanu Sisay, Environment Protection Infrastructure Engineer, Min. of Urban and Infrastructure; Senior waste management and Urban sanitation and greenery management -Mr. Toleso Benti, Sr. Environment & Climate Change Expert, Min. of Agriculture - Tagay Hamza, Sr. Expert & MRV Focal Person, Min. of Water & Energy -Bemnet Teshome (UNDP Climate Promise Project Manager)	3 Jan	Focal Group discussion with PSC members	yizbrt@gmail.com +251918303815 mesmael8@gmail.com +251911006346 heirusebrala@gmail.com +251941021967 birhanub35@gmail.com +251912073058 tolosabe603@gmail.com +2510900021647 tagayhamza21@gmail.com +251913906557 tbemnet23@gmail.com +251934505470
-Dr. Yosef Melka, National Focal Point for CC Budget Support, EU project Consultant	5 Jan		yosef.melka@gmail.com +251911384896
-Mr. Misganaw Eyassu, Programme Coordinator, CRGE Unit, Ministry of Finance			misganaw.eyassu@undp.org +251911687985
Dr. Kassahun Ture, Addis Ababa University	11 Jan		
Debriefing and final interviews			
-Debriefing end of interview phase			

Annex D – UNEG Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Evaluator:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained, and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated and did not carry out the project's Mid-Term Review.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form[15]

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System

Name of Consultant: __Elena Laura Ferretti_____

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant)**:** _____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed in Florence, Italy on January 2024

[15] www.unevaluation.org/unegcodeofconduct

Annex E – PRF Matrix with rating and comments

Coloring Legenda

Green: Completed, indicator shows successful achievements	Yellow: Indicator shows expected completion by the EOP	Red: Indicator shows poor achievement – unlikely to be completed by project closure

Objective: To enhance institutional and technical capacity related to climate transparency in Ethiopia.				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target**	**Progress as of Nov 2023**	**Rating & Comment:**
01. IRRF 1.4.1 – Solutions scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources, including sustainable commodities and green and inclusive value changes	-2	4 (Mid-Term target N/A)	-PIRs reports that **4 solutions** have been scaled up for sustainable management of natural resources through the CRGE strategy, working with 8 involved ministries and research centre for up to more than 15 institutions, supporting the implementation of the strategy through the permanent inter-ministerial body. -**Solution 1**: large **afforestation program** under the Green legacy program (partly done and partly to be done in the next years). CBIT supported the organization of meetings to promote forest monitoring and the logistics of tree plantation. More importantly, the EFD started to use Tier-II method for MRV of GHG for the forestry sector. -**Solution 2. Building Renewable Generation Capacity**: CBIT strengthened the capacity of the MRV team of MoW&E, facilitating one-to-one meetings and technical support of annual MRV activities for GHG emission in the renewable energy sector. -**Solution 3: Adoption of Agriculture and Land Use Efficiency Measures**. Support to strengthen the MRV team of MoA, facilitating one-to-one meetings and technical support of annual MRV activities for GHG emission in the sector.	-**Substantially achieved in terms of the indicator but clearly always in progress**. MTR and TE evaluators coincide on the non-appropriateness of this indicator for this project; yet, as GEF projects do not allow changing indicators at objective level, reporting is done at best. -These solutions are included in the TNC and the BUR of Ethiopia, submitted in 2023, elaborated under the EU SRPC with financial and technical support from CBIT. -EPA provides an appreciated leadership and guidance to line ministries on the MRV. -All activities are steps towards the implementation of the CRGE, aiming at achieving the ambitious net zero emission, and contribute to Ethiopia's goal of fostering growth through green technologies and pursuing sustainable development.

			MoA started to use the Tier-2 Method for MRV of GHG from the livestock sector -**Solution 4: Promotion of appropriate advanced technologies in industry, transport and buildings**. Technical and logistical support to the EPA MRV team.	
02. Number of personnel/experts (including Women) from all 11 stakeholder institutions involved in transparency-related initiatives will be engaged in the Project activities	0	180 direct beneficiaries (Mid-Term target N/A)	-845 (597 M & 248 F) persons from over 15 institutions involved in transparency-related initiatives engaged in activities and trainings for the MRV database system, the preparation of the TNC and BUR, on gender and MRV related issues, on conducting mitigation policy assessments, GHG emission assessments, on the 2006 IPCC guidelines for the preparation of the GHG inventories. -The institutions involved are: EPA, MoF, MoA; EFD, MoI, MoTL, MoM, MoUDI, MoWE, MoH, Space Science & Geospatial Institute, Centre for Environmental Science, Addis Ababa University, Haramaya University, Wondo Genet College of Forestry, Adama University, as well as regions and city administrations. All institutions contribute in different ways to the implementation of the CRGE strategy -A specific gender and health related GHG emissions and safety measures training has been delivered to staff of the MoH.	-**Target overachieved**, including both participation in consultative workshops and groups and training provided, under the leadership of EPA. All consultative meetings are somehow considered training events. -CBIT directly involves 8 ministries but overall more than 15 institutions, considering the academia and research centres. In addition, regions, city administrations, zones and woredas are involved in different ways and levels. Civil society and private sector are not involved. -A target for women participation is not established here but targets are detailed in the ProDoc on the Gender Action Plan, unfortunately too high considering the cultural situation and the effective number of women working at both technical and managerial level; more efforts could have been done to strengthen women participation but up to a certain extent it goes beyond the capacity of management. Women remain underrepresented; further efforts required, especially in decision-making but also for GHG inventories. -Training and consultation events are effectively contributing to raise awareness among national stakeholders and engage them on the importance of transparency in collecting GHG emission data, preparing inventories and reports and on the MRV system, supporting policy direction and planning for counteracting climate change.

				-GHG inventories have been prepared, ministries are adapting guidelines to their specific sector circumstances and preparing reports, CBIT strictly collaborated with the EU SRPC for the preparation of the TNC and BUR, which are based on GHG data and information.
Component N.1 Institutional capacity development /Outcome N. 1.1: Strengthened institutional capacity for transparency-related activities. Total GEF budget: US$ 460.000				
Output 1.1.1 An inter-ministerial body for high-level leadership and planning support instituted for periodic ENDC update in meeting Multilateral Agreements. **Output 1.1.2** Clearly defined roles and tasks of stakeholders for the implementation of the Paris Agreement Transparency Framework. **Output 1.1.3** National system for GHG emissions inventory and functional GHG database and information system established.				
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**End of project target level**	**Progress as of Nov 2023**	**Comment & Rating:**
3. Presence of a well-functioning permanent interministerial body/organization inclusive of all line ministries	0	1 (Mid-Term target N/A)	-A well-functioning permanent interministerial body inclusive of all line ministries is not formally established; instead, a well-functioning Technical Working Group/Steering Committee exists, integrated by technical staff from various ministries and coordinated by EPA, with MoA; EFD; MoI; MoTL; MoM; MoUDI; MoWE -This group is the forum where all GHGs and MRV activities are dealt by. Technical and logistical support is provided to organize meetings and for adopting enhanced methods of MRV of GHG in sectors concerned. -Consultations are effective, contributing to raise awareness about the need to establish a PA Transparency framework for climate change, foster data and information sharing on GHG emissions within sectors, contributing to elaborate scientific reports.	- **EoP target not fully reached.** -Line ministries are engaged as PSC's members, under the leadership of EPA and the MoF which is the body overlooking all UN cooperation. As a technical working group, it is well performing; yet, it is far from being the envisaged permanent body to be institutionalized; as a second CBIT phase is already in pipeline, it is expected to remain in place for the time being -Overlapping with the PSC, it is an anomalous body which plans, takes decision as well as oversees its own work. -The group is not gender-representative; in the past, the MoWE was represented by a woman but she has been currently replaced.
4. Number of line ministries are fully conversant with the roles and tasks in implementing the MRV	-0	11	- While 8 institutions are directly involved in the Technical Working Group, the CBIT Project also works with the MoH, the MoF, four universities and the Space Science & Geospatial Institute for overall more than 15 institutions.	-**The target is achieved, within the limitations of the Ethiopian government reshuffling**: -MoUs between EPA and relevant ministries exist, identifying tasks and roles for the GHG database and the

			-Representatives of each ministry participates in consultative workshops and training organized by the CBIT. -To note that the number of experts working on climate change drastically reduced following the 2022 government restructuring, i.e. MoM reduced the number of its experts and abolished the Environment Directorate; MoTL abolished its climate change unit which merged with the Strategic Affairs Executive Office; MoA abolished its climate change directorate to form a simple climate change team. -CBIT maintains formal and informal communication, advocating for the reestablishment of some of these units. - Each ministry prepares a report on GHG emissions and send it to EPA for revision and validation. -CBIT supported logistics and technical capacity building to undertake reporting through the IPPC 2006 software.	MRV system; these have been signed under the EU Budge Support but this is irrelevant to overall achievement as all activities are channeled and well-coordinated under the EPA leadership -Given the situation, satisfactory progress in four key sectors is appreciated; yet, not all ministries have in place adequate structures and mechanisms that can support MRV across all sectors. -Evidence of achievements is not provided in PIRs through links
5. A functional national GHG inventory database established.	-0	1	-A functional GHG Inventory Database and Information System was established in partnership with the EU SRPC. -Training of Trainers data coding on GHG-MRV database systems for the MRV Directorate in EPA and the Information Communication Technology staff provided -The database is designed with virtual access to all relevant stakeholders, enabling them to check, review and improve data, as well as revise calculations used for the elaboration of the inventory, thus creating an additional layer of quality assurance -The GHG database and information system facilitates the storage of key documentation and data, data sources, methods as well as assumptions used.	-**The target is achieved but it is an ongoing process**: training has been and it is being provided, the system is in place and operational but requires ongoing strengthening; i.e. involve more people, provide continuous training, ensure adoption of the most updated Tier III methods -Operationalization of such functional GHG database and information system will allow EPA to further engage stakeholders in the MRV process thus strengthening Ethiopia's capacities to fulfil its enhanced transparency framework. -Evidence of achievements is not provided in PIRs through links
Component 2 Technical capacity development tools, training and assistance /Outcome N.2.1 Strengthened technical capacity for transparency-related activities, including tracking of progress towards attaining ENDC. Total GEF budget US$ 600,000				

Output 2.1.1 Guidelines on the formulation of the GHG emission mitigation policy measures. **Output 2.1.2** Methods to quantify and integrate support needs into the public budget and report on effective utilization of the support received. **Output 2.1.3** Experts in key sectoral ministries regional states and city administration fully conversant on the transparency framework. **Output 2.1.4** Data collection widened and improved to sustain the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines. **Output 2.1.5** Training on the use of 2006 IPCC guidelines at relevant ministries and university carried out. **Output 2.1.6** National universities engaged to support the component authority in establishing QA/QC procedure and uncertainty analysis of the GHG inventory.				
6. Existence of 1 set of guidelines document detailing processes and steps applied in the framework of the domestic MRV system to track and report on NDC implementation measures	-0	-1 completed guideline	- 1 set of guidelines document detailing processes and steps applied in the framework of the domestic MRV system to track GHG and report on the NDC implementation measures is prepared -1 Set of guidelines developed, on waste management (landfill), Biofuel and Railway transit. -1 guideline on the formulation of mitigation policy measures developed for experts of MoTL; MoUDI, MoA, MoWE; these sectors were previously identified by the CRGE strategy assessment. -The assessment prioritized three sectors for GHG emissions: waste management (landfill), Biofuel and Railway transit. -Guidelines were developed with the support of a consultant, considering international best practices and various methods such as Cost Benefit Analysis to focus on cost effectiveness; they were disseminated to all relevant ministries as a model for them to develop their own sector-adapted guidelines for assessing mitigation plans and GHG calculations, linking data from woreda through zones, regions up to federal level -Based on the upgraded ambitious of the updated NDC, CBIT supported the development of emission reduction reports up to the year 2018 and then for 2022-2023 for the Oromia Regional state and Dire Dawa City administration. Data are included for the energy, transport, waste sectors, industrial process and product use and agriculture, forestry and other land use changes. As an example,	**-Target achieved**. -Guidelines developed aim at providing a Guidance and skill development road-map for implementing mitigation measures by experts in different sectors. -Some ministries have already begun to adapt these models to their sector-specific guidelines while others lag behind. Efforts to ensure socialization at woreda, zones and regional are ongoing. -Line ministries' capacity to track and report on progress towards achieving updated NDC GHG reduction targets is in progress but it needs more effort to track mitigation measures. -EPA MRV Directorate undertook an assessment to verify the GHG mitigation achievements across the sectors, with a number of results documented by the CBIT. This should have compiled in a short report and a link to it should have been provided in PIR. -Results from the assessments done in Dire Dawa city administration and Oromia region represent an important guidance and skill development for institutions in assessing and evaluating mitigation projects to achieve GHG emission reduction in a cost-effective manner and thus act as a catalyst to update mitigation projects; it should also provide understanding of the proportion of emissions from different sources so to evaluate where are higher

			in Dire Dawa, the inventory will be used to determine emission reduction targets and monitor the changes over time, prioritizing the highest emitting sectors in the city climate action plan.	opportunities to implement low-carbon policies and programs -Sub-national actors including regions, cities, sub-cities, zones and woredas have the role to contribute to the emission reduction report development.
7. Number of guidelines detailing processes and steps for integrating supports needs into budgets	-0	-1 completed guideline	- Discussions with MoF began and progress made on integrating GHG goals into financial terms for estimating the needs and financial gap in Ethiopia meeting its NDC commitments, and monitoring expenditure against NDC. -Results from previous assessments (see above) provide indications for energy savings from improved energy efficiency in households and commercial buildings (i.e. distribution of energy source for lighting, replacing diesel water pumps by renewable energy source water pumps, increasing use of household biogas through the National Biogas program, export of hydropower energy to neighboring countries, building industry changing waste to energy.	-**Partly achieved.** -A document exists but it is dated 2021 and is therefore outdated. This should be further improved and updated to the current situation.
8. Number of skills/trained staff on 2006 IPCC guidelines GHG Inventory and MRV	-0	-180	- 845 experts (597 Male and 248 Female) trained in MRV database System, TNC and BUR preparation as well as on gender and MRV related issues; use of the 2006 IPCC guidelines for the preparation of the GHG inventory, PA and its transparency framework. -As a practical application of the training, the Oromia Region and Dire Dawa City Administration started to annually report on GHG inventory to EPA -Training is well valued by all stakeholders, particularly those in the regions who otherwise were little exposed to the tools. -Training as been provided through 3-4 days sessions, several times, either repeating it for different stakeholders but also as refresher training.	-**Target largely exceeded**, with training instrumental in building capacities in measuring, reporting and verifying GHG emissions. -Training has included several line ministries and institutions and has involved all levels of government well complementing a high-level training at federal level initially provided under the EU Budget Support -Reportedly, training reports, list of involved people and feedback reports have been systematic; although a link to this evidence is not provided in PIRs, management reports that these are uploaded in the UNDP/PIR website. As a way to provide a little more organized picture of the training, Table N. 10 in the main text of this report has been prepared. Overall,

				evidence should have been enhanced with documents, pictures, reports, trainees' feedback as long suggested by the RTA in PIRs.
9. Number of national universities engaged to support the component Authority in establishing QA/QC procedures and uncertainty	0	3	**4 Universities involved**: i) Haramaya University, ii) Wondo Genet College of Forestry (AFOLU training for Sidama Region EPA) and iii) Adama University and iv) the Centre for Environmental Science of Addis Ababa University which has been involved in the preparation of the TNC and BUR and training activities. -They are all engaged in supporting the Federal and Regional EPA in developing a national system of GHG Inventory, and MRV and provided technical and advisory support. -MoUs are ready for signature with all universities to define tasks and roles and facilitate a conducive environment for a stronger institutional collaboration and creating an effective national capacity to implement the national strategy at federal, regional, and local levels. -Collaboration in the forestry sector, also involving the Space Science & Geospatial Institute should lead to GHG calculations emissions removal in forest management, with possibilities to attract climate finance. -A local consultant hired by CBIT developed general, sector-specific, and cross-cutting QA/QC procedures and plan, which aims to improve emission estimates by reducing uncertainty of national GHG inventory reports. The plan represents a roadmap for universities to implement QA/QC and verification procedures, which is an important part of the development of national GHG inventories and of the accounting and reporting on GHG mitigation actions.	-**Target achieved**. -Training on QA/QC methodologies for GHG emission inventories are increasing capacities and ownership. -Evidence of achievement not provided in PIRs through links.

Annex F – TE Ratings Table

Table 9. TE Rating Scales

Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, Implementation/Oversight, Execution, Relevance	Sustainability ratings:
6 = Highly Satisfactory (HS): exceeds expectations and/or no shortcomings	4 = Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability
5 = Satisfactory (S): meets expectations and/or no or minor shortcomings	3 = Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks to sustainability
4 = Moderately Satisfactory (MS): more or less meets expectations and/or some shortcomings	2 = Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks to sustainability
3 = Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): somewhat below expectations and/or significant shortcomings	1 = Unlikely (U): severe risks to sustainability
2 = Unsatisfactory (U): substantially below expectations and/or major shortcomings	Unable to Assess (U/A): Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability
1 = Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe shortcomings	
Unable to Assess (U/A): available information does not allow an assessment	

Signed TE Report Clearance form

Terminal Evaluation Report for "Capacity-Building Program to Comply with the Paris Agreement and Implement its Transparency Requirements at the National Level
GEF Medium-Sized Project (PIMS+ ID 6208)"

Reviewed and Cleared by:

Country Office Commissioning Unit (M&E Focal Point)

Name: Berhanu Alemu, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Signature: DocuSigned by: Berhanu Alemu 1BAC8175DBE7473...

Date: 12-Mar-2024

Regional Technical Advisor (Climate Hub)

Name: Ms. Thania Eloina Felix Canedo, Portfolio Oversight Specialist, UNDP Climate Hub

Signature: DocuSigned by: Eloina Felix E6EE544211884CB...

Date: 13-Mar-2024