Capacity needs assessment of transparency in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Countries of the regional network for Central Asia and the Caucasus within the CBIT-GSP project include: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Overall transparency system and reporting

As of January 2023, most of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus submitted their fourth National Communications. The countries of **Central Asia** either submitted or finalizing of their **Biennial Update Reports (BUR)**, while the countries of the Caucasus submitted their **3BURs**. **Armenia** was the first country to submit its **NAP** in 2021. Kazakhstan reports as Annex I Party and regularly submits its **Biennial Reports** and annual **National Inventory Reports**.

The countries have not yet developed their first **Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)** so far. However, the process of submitting the requests on behalf of the implementing agencies (UNEP and UNDP) to GEF has started.

Total number of climate reports in Central Asia and the Caucasus

- NAP: 1
- BR: 5
- BUR: 8
- NIR: 20
- NC: 29
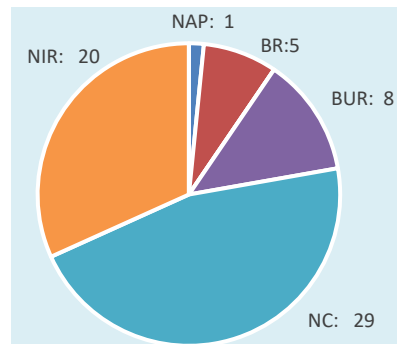
Key findings of the capacity needs assessment of transparency

Overall status of transparency and climate reporting in the region

- 12% Good
- 38% Poor
- 50% Fair
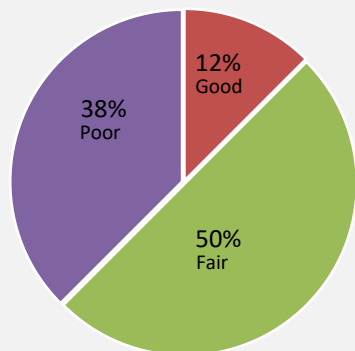
The overall status of the ETF-based transparency system varies. For example, 50% of respondents assessed that their countries' transparency system as fair meaning that the *system was established but requires some improvement*.

The rest 38% of the respondents however, claimed that their countries stand at the "**poor**" level, with the *transparency system either not established or the process has just been started*.

Institutional arrangements in the four ETF reporting areas
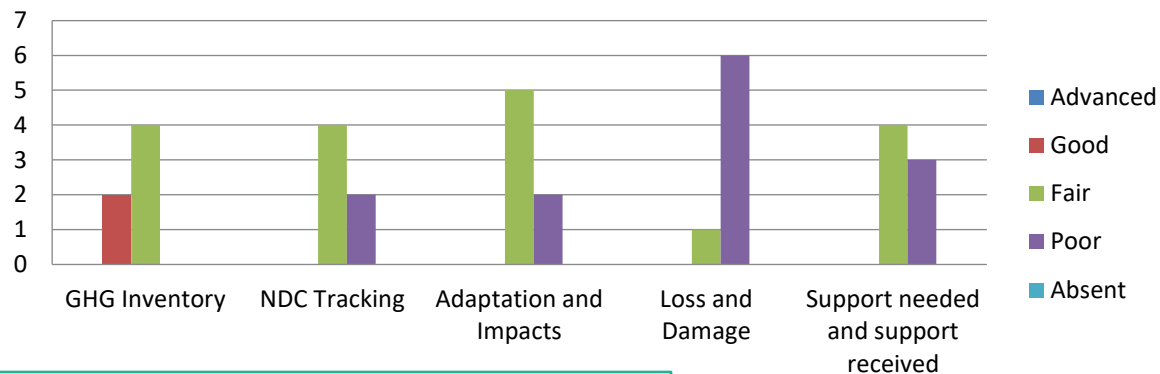

Legend: Advanced, Good, Fair, Poor, Absent
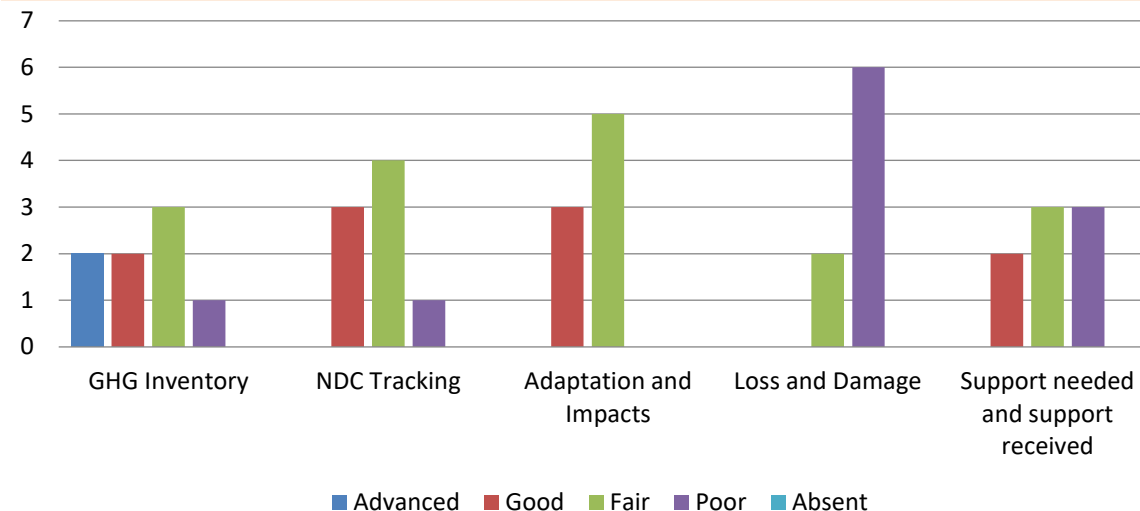
Based on the responses, the institutional arrangements for **GHG Inventory** (exception Tajikistan and Turkmenistan), **NDC tracking** (exception Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and **Adaptation and Impacts**, are *fair*, i.e. requiring some improvement.

However, the institutional arrangements for **Loss and Damage** and **Support needed and received**, are yet to be comprehensively developed – based on majority of responses. Their status varies from "**fair**" (25%) to "**poor**" (75%) level of establishment.

Capacity needs assessment of transparency in Central Asia and the Caucasus

CBIT GSP

Technical capacities to collect data and track progress in the four ETF areas

Legend: Advanced, Good, Fair, Poor, Absent

Categories: GHG Inventory, NDC Tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, Loss and Damage, Support needed and support received

Most of the responses suggest that the technical capacity for **GHG Inventory** and **NDC tracking** is "fair". Same refers to the **Adaptation and Impacts**, with the level of technical capacity as "fair". However, the technical capacity for **Loss and Damage** requires significant improvement and support, as the countries assess it as "poor".

In terms of **Support needed and received**, the level of technical capacity varies between "fair" (56%) and "poor" (44%).

Proposed activities for support at the national level (country-based requests) in 2023:

Armenia: Establishing Online MRV systems – best international practices

Azerbaijan: Training on modeling/projections of GHG emissions

Kazakhstan: Review of GHG Inventory (Energy Sector)

Kyrgyzstan: ETF and climate finance monitoring systems

Tajikistan: ETF and the use of the IPCC software

Turkmenistan: Enhancing GHG inventory for AFOLU sector/Energy Sector

Uzbekistan: Determining NDC indicators for appropriate tracking

Proposed capacity building actions for transparency at the regional level in 2023:

COP27 guidelines and support in BTR development: ETF reporting requirements, access to BTR funding, templates, timelines, good practices from other countries.

Institutional arrangements for transparency systems: legal and normative base, online platforms, delegation of roles, best practices from other regions, etc.

NDC Tracking: indicators and good practices on MRV for mitigation (P&M) and CTF.

Adaptation and Impacts: methodologies and tools in assessing the vulnerability and climate risks, requirements on adaptation reporting, M&E system for implementation and tracking of adaption measures/actions.

Support needed and received: general concept of reporting under the SR&SN; good practices and approaches on climate finance tracking tools and instruments.

Gender mainstreaming: UNFCCC reporting requirements, support in introduction of tools, capacity building of gender experts, exchange of best practices and cases among the network members and with other experts from other networks (e.g. Eurasia).

Key challenges and gaps towards ETF

- Limited institutional arrangements, including lack of legal and normative frameworks for delivering regular GHG inventories and establishing the adequate transparency systems.
- Limited access to data and information for compiling regular GHG inventories, NDC tracking and mitigation, adaptation, and support needed and support received.
- Insufficient coordination between the key governmental bodies and stakeholders on climate reporting and transparency.
- Limited technical capacities and knowledge on transparency and climate reporting among key stakeholders, incl. experts, compilers and policy-makers.
- Lack of country-based initiatives to support capacity building exercises on transparency and climate reporting.