Climate Transparency Network for Spanish Speaking Latin America and the Caribbean

Initial Assessment of Transparency Capacities

Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP)

March 2023

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) is a global support project for capacity-building on transparency, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by UNEP and executed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC). The CBIT-GSP is a five-year long project, running from 2022 to 2026, and offering a multitude of support to developing countries to enable them to comply with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement reporting requirements.

The project aims at providing streamlined support and capacity building at the country, regional, and global level to enable developing countries under the Paris Agreement to better respond to reporting requirements and to catalyse increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees.

Under the CBIT-GSP project, ten (10) Regional Transparency Networks are established to provide support and foster south-south collaboration and knowledge exchange. The Climate Transparency Network for Spanish Speaking Latin America and the Caribbean is one of them.

The Initial Assessment of Transparency Capacities (IATC) aims to analyse the Regional Network countries' capacities related to climate transparency and reporting requirements under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC. Furthermore, the IATC identifies the three main priorities for **capacity-building needs** of countries which serve as key input for preparing the 2023 Regional Network Work Plan.

The IATC was developed applying an-online survey during December 2022, where 14 of 18 countries of the Regional Network responded (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela).

This report presents a summary of main findings from the IATC, including a synthesis of countries' prioritised transparency capacity-building needs.

2. GENERAL FINDINGS ON TRANSPARENCY CAPACITIES

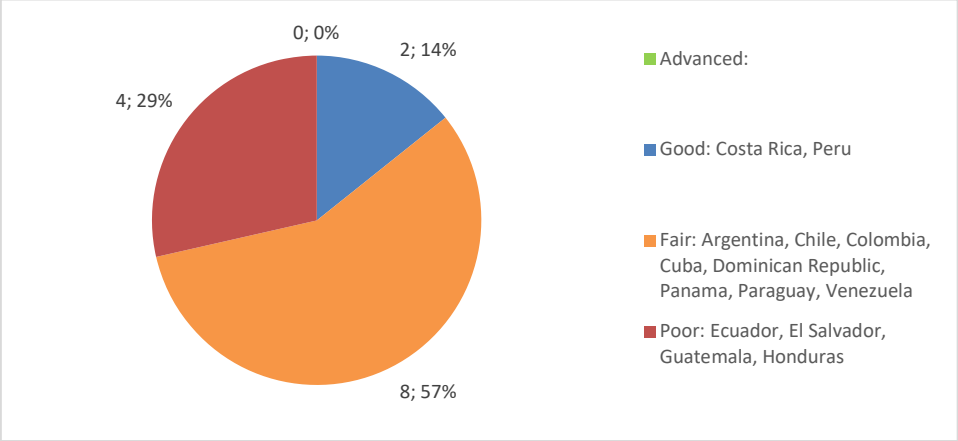
2.1. Overall transparency system and status of reporting

This section presents an overall assessment of countries' transparency systems and institutional arrangements for transparency to prepare and submit reports, in line with the enhanced transparency framework (ETF). In addition, this section includes a brief overview of countries' reports under preparation and how outcomes of their national transparency systems are used for national policymaking.

2.1.1. Transparency systems to prepare and submit reports

Regarding countries' overall status of their national transparency systems, Figure 1 shows that more than half of countries assessed that their **transparency systems to prepare and submit reports** are *fair* (transparency system is in place requiring major improvements) (57%). This is followed by 29% of countries evaluating the state of their transparency system as *poor* (transparency system is not established yet in the country or only in its inception). Only 14 % of countries responded that their national transparency system as *good* (transparency system is fully established requiring minor improvements) and no country responded to have an *advanced* transparency system in place.

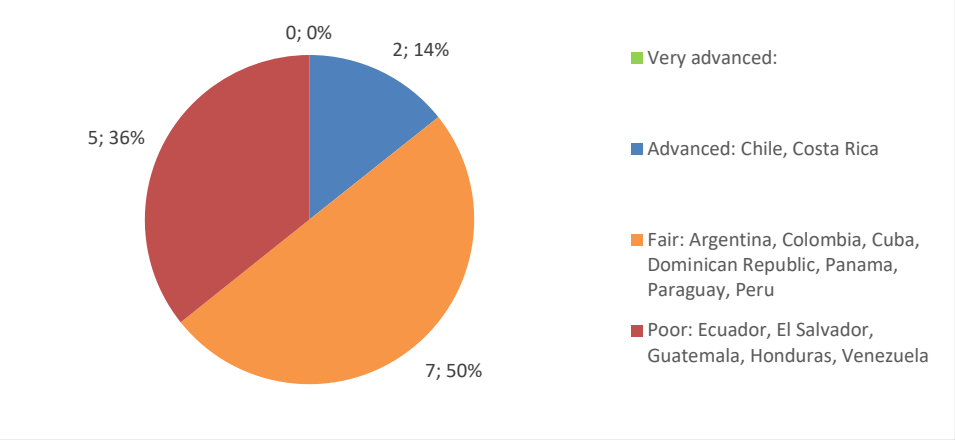
Figure 1.
Overall status of countries' transparency system to prepare and submit reports



2.1.2. Institutional arrangements for transparency

Regarding countries' **institutional arrangements for transparency** (including clearly defined roles, Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs), data-sharing agreements, etc.) (Figure 2), half of the countries assessed the status of their institutional arrangements as *fair* (IAs are in place requiring major improvements) (50%). Another third of countries noted that their institutional arrangements are *poor* (IAs are not established yet in the country or only in its inception) (36%). Only 14% of countries indicated to have *advanced* institutional arrangements for transparency in place (IAs are fully established requiring minor improvements) and no country indicated to have established *very advanced* institutional arrangements.

Figure 2.
Overall status of countries' institutional arrangements for transparency



2.1.3. Transparency report under preparation

This section of the survey inquired about the transparency reports that are currently being prepared by countries. When looking at the reports that Network countries have *already submitted* to the UNFCCC, they have submitted 138 reports to UNFCCC Secretariat since 1997. Currently, most of the **transparency reports that countries are preparing** are National Communications (9) followed by Biennial Transparency Reports (9), National Inventory Reports (5), Biennial Update Reports (4), and Adaptation Communications (1). It is noteworthy that the GEF has approved their first BTR enabling activity project for three countries (Costa Rica, Chile and Panama). Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, and Venezuela also indicated to already have taken steps for preparing their first BTR by requesting funding from the GEF or developing roadmaps for BTR preparation. Table 1 shows the reports currently under preparation by each country in the network.

Table 1.
Reports currently under preparation (number or report submission)

Country	*National Communication (NC)*	*Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)*	*National Inventory Report (NIR)*	*Biennial Update Report (BUR)*	*Adaptation Communication (AC)*
Argentina			3	5	
Chile			5	5	
Colombia	4	1			
Costa Rica		1	9		
Cuba		1			
Dominican Rep.	4	1			
Ecuador	5	1			
El Salvador	4	1			
Guatemala			2	1	
Honduras	4	1			1
Panama	4	1	2		
Paraguay	4				

Country	National Communication (NC)	Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)	National Inventory Report (NIR)	Biennial Update Report (BUR)	Adaptation Communication (AC)
Peru	4			3	
Venezuela	3	1			
TOTAL	**9**	**9**	**5**	**4**	**1**

2.1.4. Transparency systems outcomes for national policy-making

Most countries (71%) indicated that they have used the **outcomes of their transparency systems** for national policy-making, mainly related to their NDC and national adaptation and/or mitigation plans. In contrast, four countries noted that the outcomes of their transparency systems have not been used for national policy-making or not aware of that. Table 2 shows the responses provided by countries and their national policymaking based on the outcomes of their national transparency systems.

Table 2.
Utilization of the transparency outcomes in the national policymaking processes

Country	Response	National policy-making
Argentina	Yes	NDC, National Adaptation Plan, National Mitigation Plan
Chile	Yes	NDC, National Mitigation Plan, Long-Term Climate Strategic
Colombia	Yes	NDC, Laws and regulations
Costa Rica	Yes	NDC, National Adaptation Plan, Decarbonization Plan
Cuba	Yes	NDC
Dominican Republic	Yes	NDC
Ecuador	Yes	MRV
El Salvador	Yes	Climate Change National Plan
Guatemala	No	
Honduras	No	
Panama	No	
Paraguay	Yes	National Development Plan
Peru	Yes	Laws and regulations
Venezuela	No	

2.2. Transparency support received, and good practices and lessons learned in transparency

This section presents the transparency support received by countries, including which support countries consider as most useful. In addition, this section includes a compilation of most relevant transparency related topics, good practices and lessons learned that countries would like to share with or learn about from other countries.

2.2.1. Transparency support received

All countries (93%) but Ecuador **are currently receiving support for transparency,** including GEF Enabling Activities. Table 3 shows the description of transparency support received.

Table 3.
Description of transparency support currently being received by countries

Country	*Description of transparency support*
Argentina	ICAT, CBIT, NDC Support and Readiness NAP GCF have provided funding for preparing national and local adaptation/mitigation plans
Chile	Financial support for its 5BUR preparation through UNDP
Colombia	Financial support from CBIT (UNDP) and GIZ. Also, technical support has been provided from PATPA (GIZ) and ICAT
Costa Rica	UNFCCC and GIZ are providing capacity-building support
Cuba	FAO (CBIT_M&E/MRV AFOLU), ICAT (MRV NDC-Energy), GCF-UNDP (MRV Climate Finance)
Dominican Republic	UNDP are providing support for implementing the national transparency platform. ICAT is providing technical support for M&E of adaptation. CBIT project is providing support for 2020 NDC tracking. UNFCCC and PATPA are providing capacity-building support on inventory
El Salvador	UNDP will provide technical support for updating the national NDC tracking system
Guatemala	UNFCCC and UNDP are providing support
Honduras	GIZ is funding national consultancy for MRV of agriculture and waste. CBIT (UNEP) is funding the implementation of the national transparency system
Panama	UNFCCC, FAO, PATPA and ICAT have provided capacity-building support. UNDP has provided support related to dissemination activities and workshops.
Paraguay	CBIT is providing support on inventory, adaptation indicators and institutional arrangements
Peru	GEF has provided funding for 3BUR and 4NC. CBIT and UNDP is providing support on MRV tools for adaptation and mitigation actions
Venezuela	UNFCCC

2.2.2. Most useful support received

In terms on support received considered most useful, only seven countries have reported their experiences in this matter (Table 4).

Table 4.
Description of most useful support received by country and provider

Country	*Most useful support received*	*Provider*
Argentina	Inventory quality assurance exercise	UNFCCC
	Inventory peer-review process	RedINGEI
	Expert exchange and south-south cooperation	GSP, UNDP, RedINGEI, ICAT
Chile	Implementation of the National GHG Prospective System, develop of adaptation indicators, domestic climate finance tracking	CBIT (UNEP)
Colombia	Capacity-building activities on inventory and expert exchanges	RedINGEI
Dominican Republic	Technical support on MRV of inventory and mitigation actions which fostered the implementation of legal arrangements	ICAT
El Salvador	3NC and 1BUR preparation	GEF/UNEP
Honduras	Support for preparing ETF and MRV manual and protocols	NDC-LULUCF/UNEP
Panama	Capacity-building	World Bank

2.2.3. Good practices and lessons learned for sharing with other countries

More than half of countries (64%) indicated **good practices and lessons learned that could be shared** with other countries. These good practices are mostly related to **institutional arrangements for transparency** (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Venezuela) and **national inventory systems** (Chile, Guatemala and Peru). Argentina and Ecuador also indicated to their experiences related to **M&E of adaptation actions** to be shared with other countries (Table 5).

Table 5.
Good practices and lessons learned to share with other countries

Country available to share its experience	*Good practices and lessons learned to share*
Argentina	Institutional arrangement for transparency, M&E of adaptation, Subnational institutional arrangement, GHG projections
Chile	National inventory systems, National GHG projection systems, NDC planning and implementation
Colombia	Institutional arrangement for transparency
Costa Rica	Institutional arrangement for transparency
Ecuador	Institutional arrangement for transparency, M&E of adaptation, Climate finance
El Salvador	Institutional arrangement for transparency
Guatemala	National inventory systems
Peru	Institutional arrangement for transparency, National inventory systems
Venezuela	Institutional arrangement for transparency, M&E of adaptation, Subnational institutional arrangement, GHG projections

2.2.4. Good practices and lessons learned to hear

Regarding *learning* from other countries, all countries indicated their interest in **hearing about good practices and lessons learned from other countries**. Table 6 shows that main topics for learning from other countries are related to M&E of adaptation actions, NDC tracking, national inventory systems, MRV of mitigation actions and institutional arrangement for transparency.

Table 6.
Main topics of good practices and lessons learned to hear from other countries

Topics to learn about from other countries	*Countries interested to learn about topic*
M&E of adaptation	Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela
NDC tracking	Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela
Institutional arrangement for transparency	Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras , Paraguay
MRV of mitigation actions	Argentina, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Peru, Venezuela
National inventory systems	Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay
Support needed and received tracking	Argentina, Ecuador, Panama
MPGs requirement/provisions	Argentina, Ecuador, Honduras
GHG projections	Argentina, Cuba
Losses and damages	Honduras, Panama

Capacity-building on BTR	Colombia, Honduras
MRV systems integration	Guatemala
Archiving systems	Honduras
NDC planning and implementation	Costa Rica

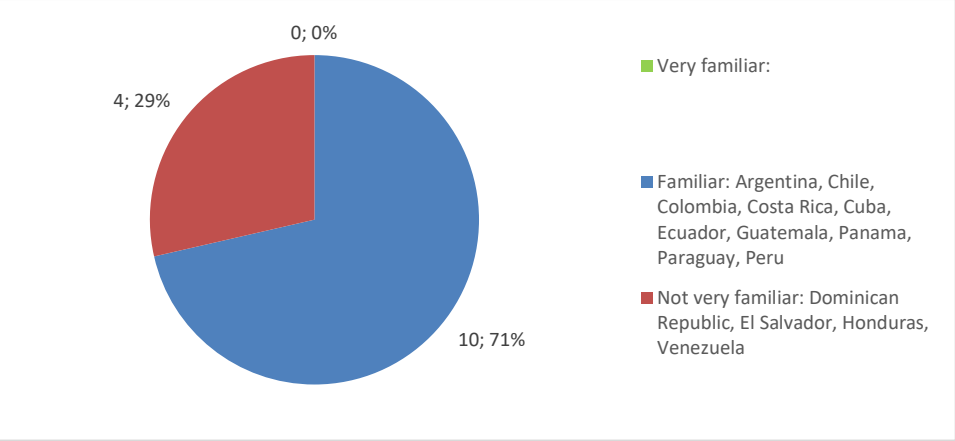
2.3. Implementing the ETF and preparation for the BTR

This section presents information about countries' familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions including steps taken for preparing the first BTR. The section further provides insights on countries' challenges to implement the ETF in a sustainable manner and potential solutions to overcome the identified challenges.

2.3.1. Countries' familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions

Most countries (71%) noted to be *familiar* with the ETF/BTR provisions, however, the other countries (29%) indicated that they are *not very familiar* with the ETF/BTR provisions yet. No country responded to be *very familiar* with BTR provisions/requirements (Figure 3). Countries have been familiarized with the ETF/BTR through studying MPG provisions and requirements by them self, including Common Reporting Tables (CRT) for reporting GHG inventories and Common Tabular Formats (CTF) for reporting of the information necessary for NDC tracking and support needed and received, and participation in regional transparency workshops.

Figure 3.
Level of familiarity with ETF/BTR provisions



2.3.2. Steps taken for preparing the first BTR

Regarding preparing for the first BTR (Table 7), ten countries have indicated to have requested funding from the GEF for preparing their first BTR, three of which have had their funding requests approved already. Hereby, UNDP is the main implementing GEF agency for Enabling Activities in the region). It is also worth noting that six countries (19%) mentioned to have developed a BTR submission roadmap. The remaining countries indicated to have taken "other" actions, however without specifying those actions. Only one country noted that it has not taken any steps yet (Honduras).

Table 7.
Steps taken for preparing the first BTR by country

Steps taken	*Countries*
Funding has been requested from the GEF for the preparation of the 1BTR	Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic
A BTR submission roadmap or dedicated plan has been developed	Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Venezuela
Other	Argentina, Chile, El Salvador
Other support has been requested to support preparation for the 1BTR	Panama
No steps have been taken yet	Honduras

2.3.3. Challenges for implementing the ETF

The three main challenges that countries face in implementing the ETF in a sustainable manner are related to a lack of or gaps regarding **sufficient human resources** (9 countries), **institutional arrangements for transparency** (8 countries) and **national information systems** (7 countries). Other relevant challenges by countries relate to financial resources, access to climate finance and M&E of adaptation actions. See Table 8 below for a detailed overview of challenges mentioned by countries.

Table 8.
Countries' challenges for implementing the ETF

Challenge for implementing the ETF	*Countries*
Sustainable human resources	Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Venezuela
Transparency systems	Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru
Information systems	Argentina, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru
Sustainable financial resources	Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela
Climate finance access	Argentina, Panama, Venezuela
M&E of adaptation	Dominican Republic, Panama
ETF implementation under national circumstances	El Salvador
BTR chapters scope definition	Colombia
High-level support	Costa Rica
Climate indicators	Cuba
Subnational MRV systems	Chile
Maintain established MRV systems	Chile
MRV of support needed and received	Chile

2.3.4. Potential solutions for challenges faced

Regarding potential solutions for their challenges, most countries mentioned related to **national capacity-building** (9 countries) as solution, followed by **streamlined processes for climate finance access** (8 countries) as well as **exchange of good practices and lessons learned** (3 countries) (Table

9). At least two of the three suggested solutions by countries (capacity-building and exchange of good practices) can be covered by the support provided under the CBIT-GSP Regional Network.

Table 9.
Potential solutions identified by countries for challenges faced in implementing the ETF

Potential solutions	*Countries*
National capacity-building	Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru
Streamlined processes for climate finance access	Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela
Exchange of good practices and lessons learned	El Salvador, Honduras, Panama
Exchange of experiences on climate finance access	Argentina, Honduras
Strengthen institutional arrangements	Chile, Colombia
Climate change awareness	El Salvador, Panama

2.4. Assessment of capacities related to the ETF reporting areas

This section presents an assessment of countries' institutional arrangements and technical capacities in relation to each of the four ETF reporting areas: GHG inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, including losses and damage, as well as support needed and received.

2.4.1. Institutional arrangement for ETF reporting areas

In the survey, countries were asked to assess their **institutional arrangements related to the four ETF reporting areas** as either *advanced* (institutional arrangements are fully operational); *good* (institutional arrangements are established requiring minor improvements); *fair* (institutional arrangements are established requiring minor improvements); *poor* (considerable support needed); or *absent* (substantial support needed). Overall, countries assessed their institutional arrangements related to the ETF as following:

- **GHG inventory**: mostly *good* (43%) and *poor* (29%)
- **NDC tracking**: mostly *poor* (50%) and *fair* (43%)
- **Adaptation and impacts**: mostly *poor* (50%) and *fair* (29%)
- **Losses and damages**: mostly *poor* (64%) and *absent* (29%)
- **Support needed and received**: mostly *poor* (36%) and *absent* (29%)

It is worth noting, that *advanced* institutional arrangements were only mentioned by one country (Panama), namely for the area of GHG inventory. Overall, the area of GHG inventory is the area where most countries indicated *good* institutional arrangements. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that for all of the three areas of adaptation and impacts, losses and damages and support needed and received, countries have highlighted *absent* institutional arrangements, in particular for the latter two areas. For losses and damages, no country mentioned *advanced* or *fair* institutional arrangements. However, one country (Costa Rica) assessed their institutional arrangements for the area of losses and damages as *good.* Here, Costa Rica's experience could be worth sharing with other countries in the network. An overview of the assessment of the institutional arrangements per area is provided in Figure 4 below. In addition, Table 10 below provides a detailed overview by country.

Figure 4.
General assessment of institutional arrangement for the ETF reporting areas

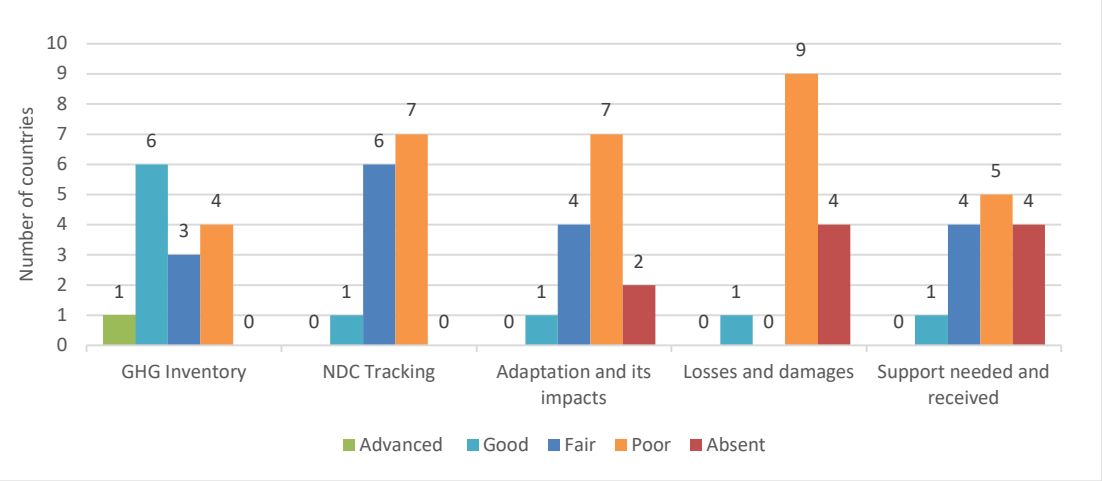


Table 10.
Assessment of institutional arrangements by country and ETF reporting areas

Country	*GHG inventory*	*NDC tracking*	*Adaptation and its impacts*	*Losses and damages*	*Support needed and received*
Argentina	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Chile	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Colombia	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent	Poor
Costa Rica	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Cuba	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Dominican Rep.	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor	Fair
Ecuador	Fair	Poor	Absent	Absent	Absent
El Salvador	Poor	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent
Guatemala	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor
Honduras	Poor	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent
Panama	Advanced	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
Paraguay	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor
Peru	Good	Fair	Fair	Poor	Fair
Venezuela	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Absent

2.4.2. Technical capacities for ETF reporting areas

In addition to countries' assessment of their institutional arrangements, countries were asked to assess their technical capacities in each of the ETF reporting areas as either *advanced* (no support needed); *good* (little support needed); *fair* (some support needed); *poor* (considerable support needed); or *absent* (substantial support needed). Overall, countries assessed their **technical capacities related to the ETF** as following:

- **GHG inventory**: mostly *good* (36%) and *fair* (29%)
- **NDC tracking**: mostly *poor* (50%) and *fair* (43%)
- **Adaptation and impacts**: mostly poor (50%) and *fair* (21%)

- **Losses and damages**: mostly *poor* (57%) and *absent* (21%)
- **Support needed and received**: mostly *poor* (50%) and *fair* (29%)

Similarly to the institutional arrangements above, only one country (Chile) assessed its technical capacities as *advanced*, also in the area of GHG inventory. Regarding technical capacities, the area of GHG inventory received the highest number of countries assessing their technical capacities as either *good* or *fair.* However, in contrast to the assessment of institutional arrangements in that area, one country noted to have *absent* technical capacities for GHG inventory. In fact, all four ETF areas see *absent* technical capacities by some countries, whereby losses and damages and support needed and received see most *absent* technical capacities (three countries each). It is also noteworthy, that the area of support needed and received is the only area where countries have neither reported *good* nor *advanced* technical capacities. Overall, most countries assessed their technical capacities as *poor* in the areas of NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, losses and damages as well as support needed and received. An overview of the assessment of the technical capacities per area is provided in Figure 5 below. In addition, Table 11 below provides a detailed overview of assessed technical capacities by country.

Figure 5.
General assessment of technical capacities for the ETF reporting areas

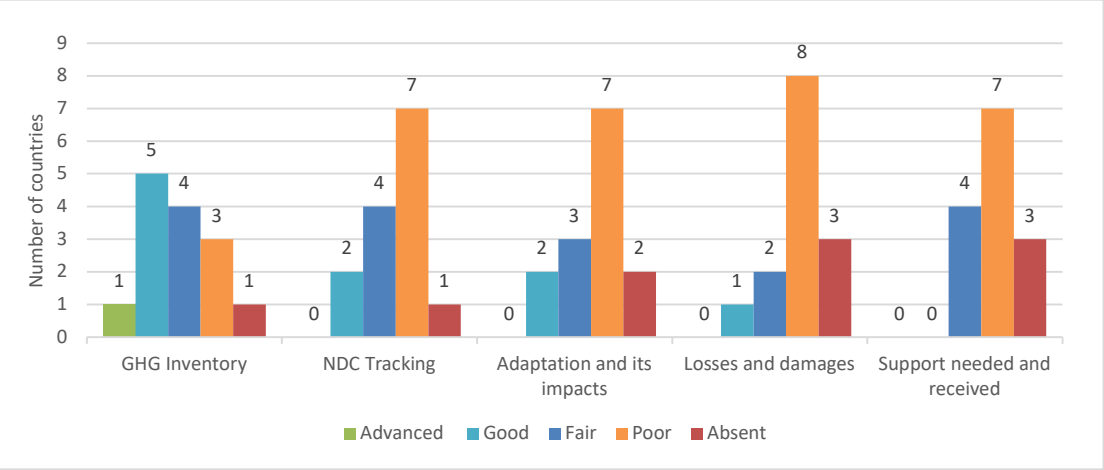


Table 11.
Assessment of technical capacities in the ETF reporting areas by country

Country	*GHG inventory*	*NDC tracking*	*Adaptation and its impacts*	*Losses and damages*	*Support needed and received*
Argentina	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor
Chile	Advanced	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Colombia	Fair	Poor	Fair	Poor	Poor
Costa Rica	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair	Fair
Cuba	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Ecuador	Fair	Poor	Absent	Absent	Absent
Dominican Rep.	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
El Salvador	Poor	Poor	Poor	Absent	Absent

Country	*GHG inventory*	*NDC tracking*	*Adaptation and its impacts*	*Losses and damages*	*Support needed and received*
Guatemala	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair
Honduras	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Panamá	Good	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Paraguay	Good	Fair	Poor	Poor	Fair
Perú	Good	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor
Venezuela	Fair	Fair	Poor	Poor	Poor

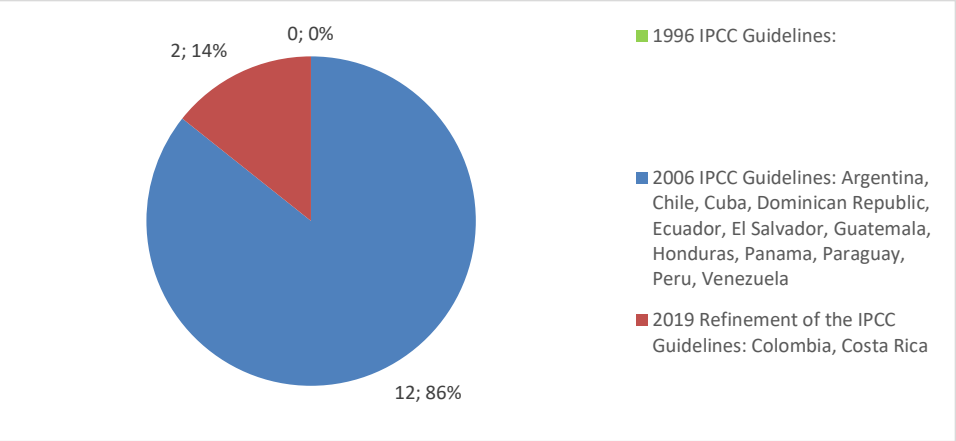
2.5. Specific technical capacities related to GHG inventories

This section presents an assessment of countries' technical capacities, specifically related to GHG inventories, including the use of IPCC Guidelines and related software, as well as the existence of QA/QC procedures.

2.5.1. Use of IPCC Guidelines

This section of the survey inquired countries' use of the IPCC Guidelines. Hereby, the Figure 6 shows that majority of countries (86%) noted to mainly use the *2006 IPCC Guidelines* to elaborate their inventories. Colombia and Costa Rica are the only two countries that mentioned the use of the *2009 Refinement* of the IPCC Guidelines. Importantly, no country uses the *1996 Revised IPCC Guidelines*.

Figure 6.
IPCC Guidelines used by countries

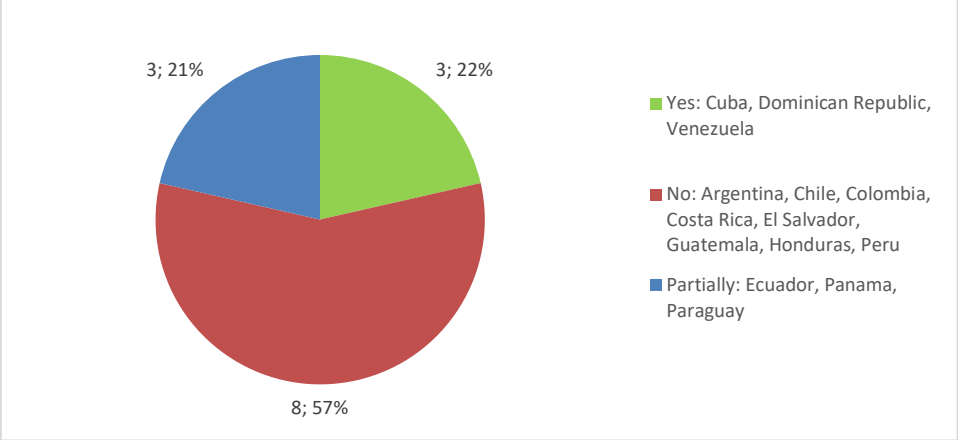


2.5.2. Use of IPCC Inventory Software

Regarding the use of IPCC Inventory Software[1], Figure 7 shows that more than half of the countries (57%) do *not* use the IPCC Software to prepare their national GHG inventory. However, four countries (Cuba, Dominican Republic and Venezuela) noted to utilize the IPCC Inventory Software, while three countries (Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay) use the software partially.

[1] Available in https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/software/index.html

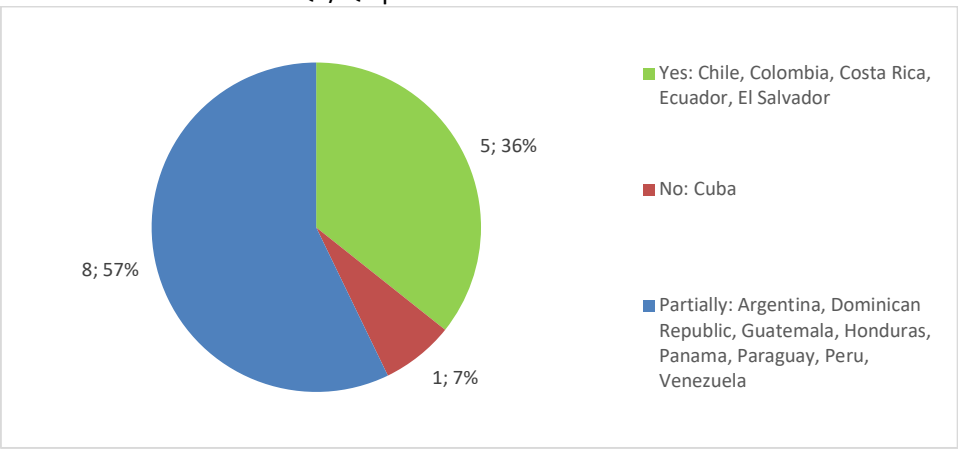
Figure 7.
Use of IPCC Inventory Software for inventory preparation



2.5.3. QA/QC procedures in place

Regarding QA/QC procedures, more than half of the countries (57%) noted to have QA/QC procedures *partially* in place, meaning that their procedures have not been formally institutionalized. However, approximately one third of the countries (36%) have already operational QA/QC procedures in place. Cuba as the only country has not yet established operational QA/QC procedures yet (Figure 8).

Figure 8.
Status of the established QA/QC procedures



2.6. Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking

This section of the survey inquired countries' technical capacities specifically related to NDC tracking, including the use of and familiarity with modelling tools and the existence of national NDC indicators for tracking progress.

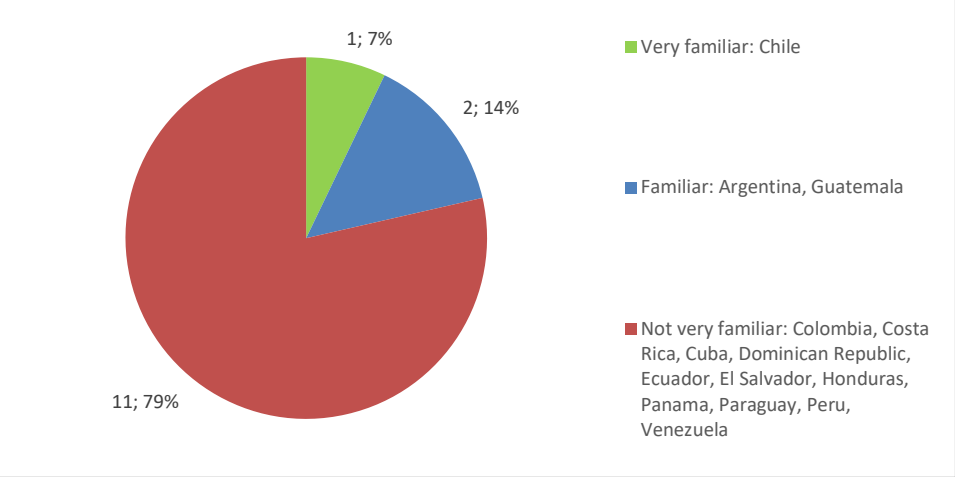
2.6.1. Modelling tools used for preparing NDC and GHG projections

Countries are using a wide variety of different modelling tools in the preparation of their NDC and GHG projections. The modelling tool used by most countries is **LEAP** (Colombia, Honduras and Paraguay). Countries also mentioned the use of **country-specifics modelling tools**, such as economic and energy tools used by sectorial institutions**.** Other modelling tools mentioned by countries are Dinamica EGO (Argentina), LESO (Chile), CLEW and Times (Costa Rica), and GEMS (Panama).

2.6.2. Countries' familiarity with modelling tools

Most countries (79%) declared that their technical personnel is *not very familiar* with those modelling tools for preparing their NDC and GHG projections. Only 14% and 7% of countries indicated that their technical staff is *familiar* and *very familiar* respectively. This can therefore can an important area of support under the CBIT-GSP project (Figure 9).

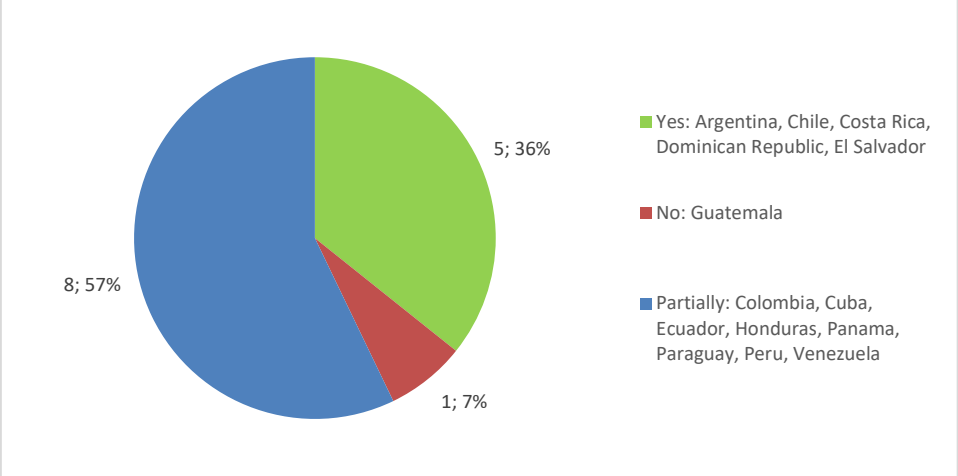
Figure 9.
Status of countries' familiarity with modelling tools



2.6.3. Indicators for NDC tracking

Regarding the development of national indicators for NDC tracking, Figure 10 shows that more than half of the countries (57%) have *partially* identified relevant indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of their NDC. However, five countries have already identified indicators for their NDC, while one country (Guatemala) has not yet identified indicators.

Figure 10.
Status of countries' identification of NDC tracking indicators



2.7. Specific technical capacities related to adaptation, impacts and losses and damages

This section presents a specific assessment of countries' technical capacities for adaptation and impacts as well, including tools and methodologies used, the existence of a national system for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation actions as well as the status of the National Adaptation Plan process in countries. The section further outlines the results regarding countries' ability to assess their losses and damages.

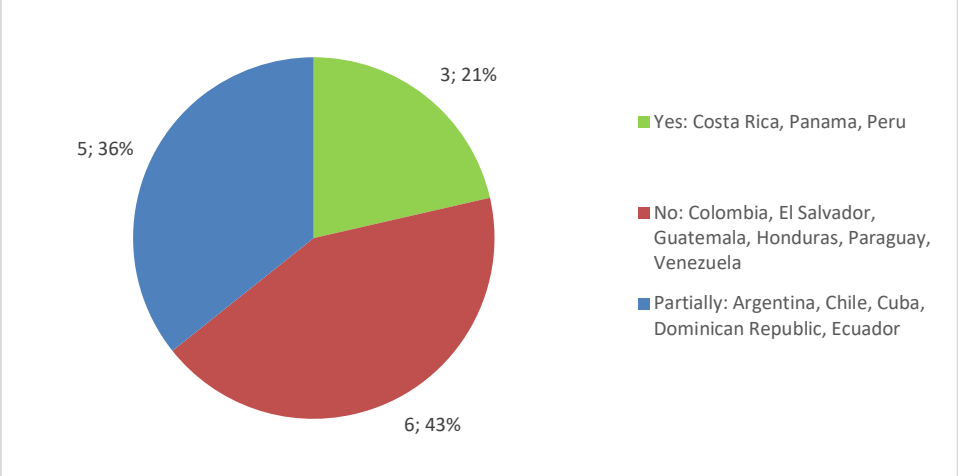
2.7.1. Approaches, methodologies and tools used for adaptation

The survey results show that countries are using a wide variety of approaches, methodologies and tools to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change. The most used methodologies are those elaborated by the **IPCC** (Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama and Paraguay), followed by **country-specific methods** (Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba and Paraguay). Other methodologies used are from GIZ, ECLAC and the Notre Dame University.

2.7.2. Domestic system for M&E of adaptation actions

Figure 11 shows that six countries (43%) have *not established* domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of their adaptation actions. However, other five countries (36%) noted that their M&E systems are *partially established*, while Costa Rica, Panama and Peru have already national M&E systems for adaptation in place.

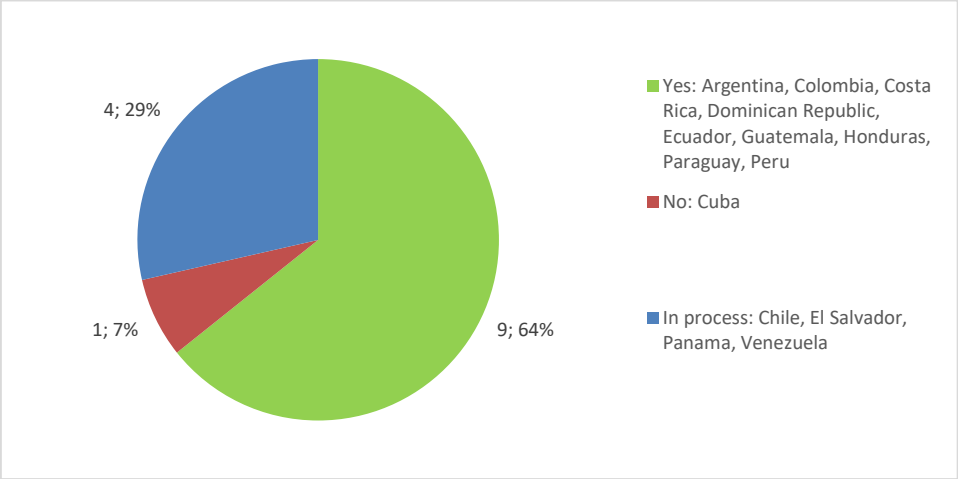
Figure 11.
Status of establishment of domestic M&E systems



2.7.3. National Adaptation Plans

Regarding National Adaptation Plans (NAP), more than half of the countries (64%) have already developed a National Adaptation Plan, of which seven have submitted their NAP to the UNFCCC. Further 29% of countries are currently in process of developing one (Figure 12), while one country has not started yet.

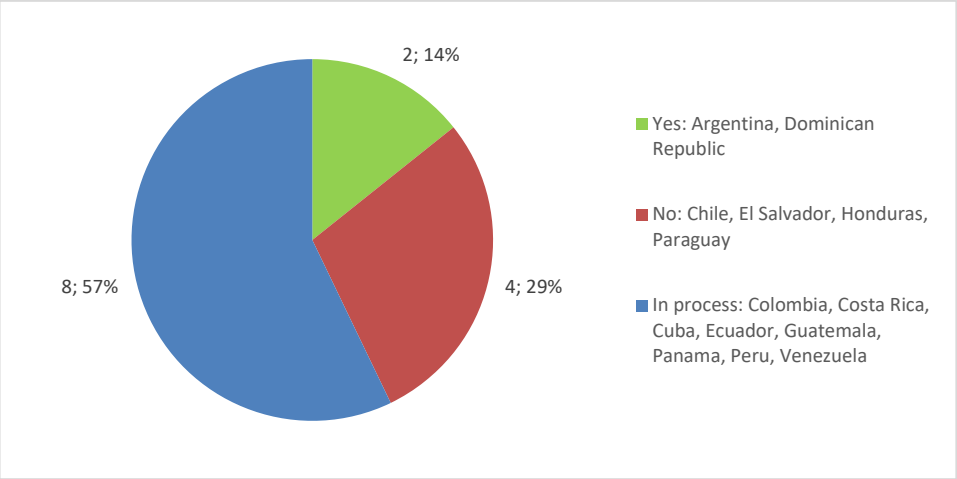
Figure 12.
Status of countries' development of a National Adaptation Plan



2.7.4. Losses and damages

The assessment of losses and damages is a relatively new and relatively complex area. Nevertheless, the survey results show that more than half of the countries (57%) have started assessing losses and damages, while Argentina and Dominican Republic have already assessed their losses and damages. On the other hand, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras and Paraguay have not started assessing their losses and damages yet (see Figure 13 below).

Figure 13.
Status of countries' assessment of losses and damages



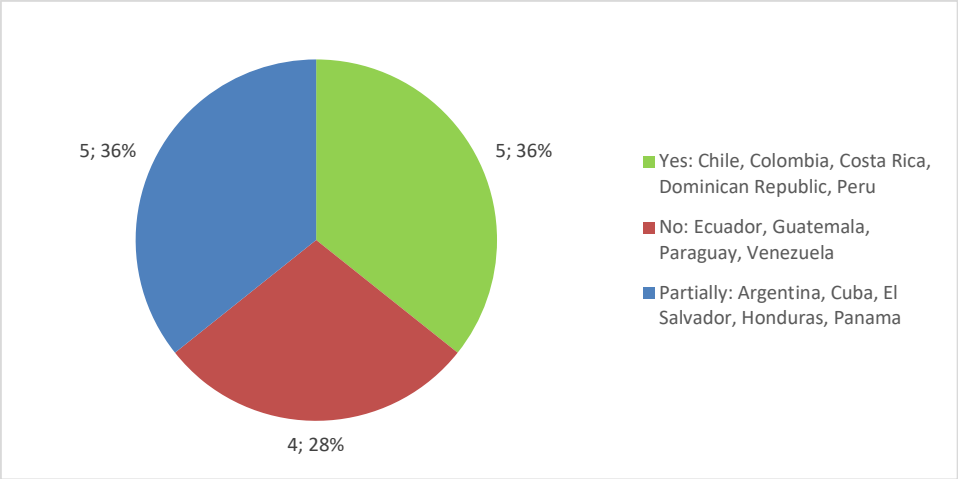
2.8. Specific technical capacities related to support needed and received

This section presents an assessment of countries' technical capacities specifically for support needed and received, including the existence of systems for tracking of finance received and the estimation of support needs.

2.8.1. Systems for tracking climate finance received

Most countries (71%) noted that they are already tracking (36%) or partially tracking (36%) international climate finance received. Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Venezuela however have not tracked international climate finance received yet (see Figure 14 below).

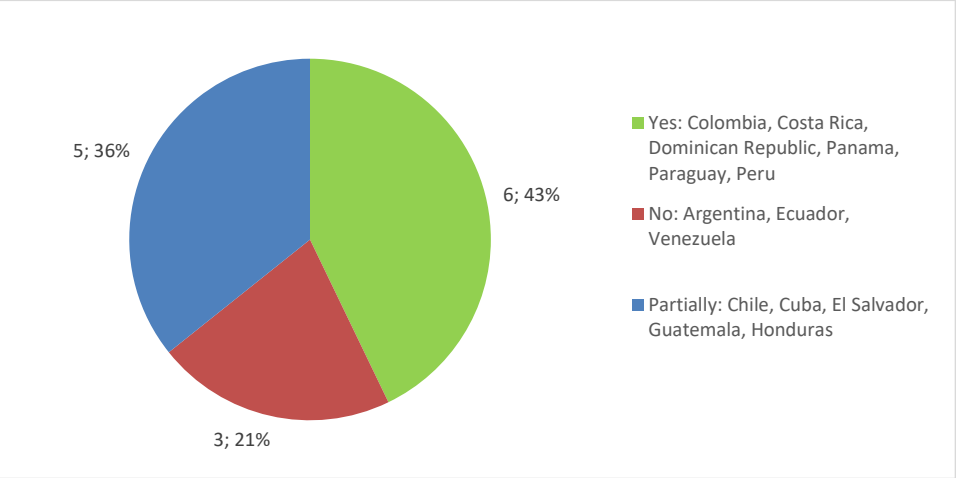
Figure 14.
Status of systems for tracking climate finance received



2.8.2. Estimation of support needs

Regarding the estimation of support needs (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building), six countries (43%) have already estimated their support needs or have done so (36%). Only Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela have not yet estimated their support needed (see Figure 15 below).

Figure 15.
Status of systems for estimating support needs



2.9. Gender mainstreaming

This section presents the survey results concerning gender mainstreaming in countries and their efforts to integrate gender considerations into their national transparency system.

Overall, countries are already undertaking efforts towards gender mainstreaming and integrating gender into national transparency systems. Hereby, most countries have conducted *capacity-building for gender mainstreaming and inclusive processes for disadvantaged groups* (9 countries), followed by *supporting inclusive approaches in analysing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups* (8 countries). Only Panama and Paraguay are already collecting sex-disaggregated data in their national transparency system through the national transparency reports. No country has not noted to *actively analysing sex disaggregated data to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting.* Ecuador, Honduras and Venezuela have not taken any steps towards gender mainstreaming yet. Table 12 shows a summary of countries' efforts related to gender mainstreaming.

Table 12.
Summary of countries' efforts related to gender mainstreaming

Country efforts	*Countries*
Country has undertaken capacity building for gender mainstreaming and inclusive processes for disadvantaged groups through the NDC indicators, transparency systems and/or other reporting instruments/processes	Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, Dominican Republic
Country supports inclusive approaches in analysing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for the disadvantaged groups	Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Venezuela
Country has a Climate Change and Gender Action Plan that has clear actions to support or strengthen gender mainstreaming in monitoring and reporting systems	Colombia, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic
No specific steps have been taken yet	Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela
Country collects sex disaggregated data in the national transparency system through the NC, BUR, and other reporting instruments	Panama, Paraguay
Specific gender-responsive indicators are being monitored in relation to climate actions/measures/projects	Peru
Other	Chile
Gender analysis and sex disaggregated data is actively analysed to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting	

3. PRIORITY SUPPORT NEEDS

The survey inquired countries *three most pressing transparency support or training needs*. Based on the survey analysis and the needs identified by countries, priority needs for transparency for the Regional Network were identified. The matrix in Table 13 shows all capacity-building needs mentioned by country and thematic area, including a cross-cutting category relevant for capacity-building needs that can be covered by more than one transparency thematic area.

Based on countries' responses, the three most pressing transparency support or training needs are:

Analysis and implementation of MPGs, CRTs and CTFs: most countries are requesting capacity-building support to analyse, implement and comply with the MPG provisions and requirements (Decision 18/CMA.1) and also the Guidance for operationalizing MPG (Decision 5/CMA.3) in order to increase their technical capacities for preparing and timely reporting their firsts BTR by 2024.

Tracking progress made in implementing and achieving NDC: the second most mentioned capacity-building need was NDC tracking which could include the following areas:

- establishing domestic institutional arrangements
- describing the NDC in a transparent manner
- reporting information necessary to track the progress made in implementing and achieving their NDC
- describing mitigation policies and measures,
- mitigations co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and economic diversification plans
- preparing and reporting of GHG projections.

M&E of adaptation actions and processes: monitoring and evaluation of adaptation was also noted as a priority capacity-building need by countries. M&E of adaptation could include the following areas, among other:

- establishing and reporting on domestic systems and their approaches
- providing information related to monitoring and evaluation, and to the effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation actions.

Those three main topics will be the focus for the Regional Network´s cross-cutting activities in 2023.

Table 13.
Summary of transparency capacity-building needs by country and by transparency thematic areas and cross-cutting topics

Country	*Cross-cutting topics*	*GHG inventory*	*NDC Tracking and mitigation*	*Adaptation and impacts*	*Support needed and received*
Argentina	• Analysis and implementation of MPG, CRT and CTF.				• Permanent access to financial support. • Funding for applying report improvements.
Chile	• Sectorial MRV systems.			• M&E of adaptation actions and processes.	• Management of support received information.
Colombia	• Institutional arrangement for transparency. • Gender mainstreaming. • Indicators for mitigation and adaptation	• National GHG Inventory.			
Costa Rica	• Analysis and implementation of MPG, CRT and CTF.			• Losses and damage.	• Technology development and transfer.
Cuba			• Tracking progress made in implementing and achieving NDC. • GHG projections and scenarios.		
Dominican Republic		• National GHG Inventory.	• Tracking progress made in implementing and achieving NDC.	• M&E of adaptation actions and processes.	
Ecuador	• Analysis and implementation of MPG, CRT and CTF. • Transparency overview. • Use of informatic tools in BTRs.				
El Salvador	• Analysis and implementation of MPG,				

Country	*Cross-cutting topics*	*GHG inventory*	*NDC Tracking and mitigation*	*Adaptation and impacts*	*Support needed and received*
	CRT and CTF. • Institutional arrangement for transparency.				
Guatemala	• Analysis and implementation of MPG, CRT and CTF.				
Honduras	• Institutional arrangement for transparency.	• National GHG Inventory. • Carbon footprint.	• Tracking progress made in implementing and achieving NDC. • GHG projections and scenarios.	• M&E of adaptation actions and processes. • Losses and damage. • Adaptation Communication.	
Panama			• Tracking progress made in implementing and achieving NDC. • GHG projections and scenarios.	• Adaptation Communication. • Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities	
Paraguay	• Analysis and implementation of MPG, CRT and CTF.			• Losses and damage. • Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities	
Peru				• M&E of adaptation actions and processes.	• Climate finance.
Venezuela					• Technology development and transfer. • Climate finance. • Capacity-building.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Countries in the Spanish-speaking Latin American and the Caribbean are very advanced and proactive regarding the reporting to the UNFCCC. Since 1997, 18 countries have already submitted more than 135 reports on climate change. Also, countries have established south-south cooperation networks to share expertise gained and good practices. However, important gaps and constraints remain, including a high turnover of national experts, a lack of data and adequate institutional arrangements.

Overall, countries rated their transparency systems and related institutional arrangements as *fair*. which means that institutional arrangements are in place but require major improvements. This cross-cutting issue throughout the region is a key element to consider for establishing robust national transparency systems. Countries are also currently preparing different transparency reports. Hereby it is noteworthy that some countries in the region are already preparing their first BTR. It is also important to highlight that most countries use the outcomes of their transparency systems for national policy-making such as the development of their NDC and mitigation/adaptation plans.

Countries have received transparency support from various organisations, both in the context of GEF Enabling Activities and CBIT projects (e.g., though UNDP and UNEP), as well as other capacity-building support, e.g. UNFCCC, PATPA and ICAT. Hereby, the support assessed as most useful by countries is expert exchange and regional cooperation. Strongly aligned with this, most countries highlighted that they are willing to share their experiences, particularly on institutional arrangements for transparency. On the other hand, most countries wish to learn mainly about M&E of adaptation and NDC tracking from other countries. This is consistent with the capacity-building priorities identified (please see above).

Countries have also taken steps towards implementing the ETF and preparing their first BTR. Hereby most countries indicated that they are familiar with the ETF/BTR provisions, and ten countries have already requested funding from the GEF. However, challenges remain due to limited human and financial resources as well as a lack of robust information systems. Potential solutions for those challenges are national capacity-building support and regional exchanges of good practices and lessons learned. Overall, countries recognized their limited technical and institutional capacities to collect data and track progress in the ETF reporting areas.

Regarding the area of **GHG inventory,** all countries are using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines or even the 2019 Refinement. However, most countries do not use the IPCC Inventory Software. Furthermore, most countries' QA/QC procedures are partially operational. Overall, GHG inventory is likely not a high priority area in the region due to regional expertise gained through the RedINGEI.

Regarding the area of **NDC tracking and mitigation**, countries are using a wide variety of national modelling tools; however, technical personal is not very familiar with these tools. Most countries have partially identified indicators for NDC tracking, which could be an important area to be covered through regional cooperation.

Regarding the area of **adaptation and impacts**, countries are using national methodologies and IPCC methodologies. While many countries in the regions have developed a NAP, most countries have not yet established domestic M&E systems, indicating another key regional gap to be addressed. Importantly, most countries are already in the process of assessing losses and damage, indicating that this region is particularly advanced in this area.

Regarding the area of **support needed and received**, most countries are tracking or partially tracking their climate finance received and/or estimating their support needs.

All regional countries are making efforts to integrate gender consideration into their national transparency systems undertaking capacity-building activities in this matter and supporting inclusive approaches in analysis the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions.

In summary, countries' key capacity-building needs are related to an overall analysis, implementation of and compliance with the MPG provisions —including CRT and CTF—, followed by NDC tracking and establishing domestic M&E systems of adaptation actions. In addition, institutional arrangements for transparency have been identified as the most relevant cross-cutting issue related to all ETF reporting areas.