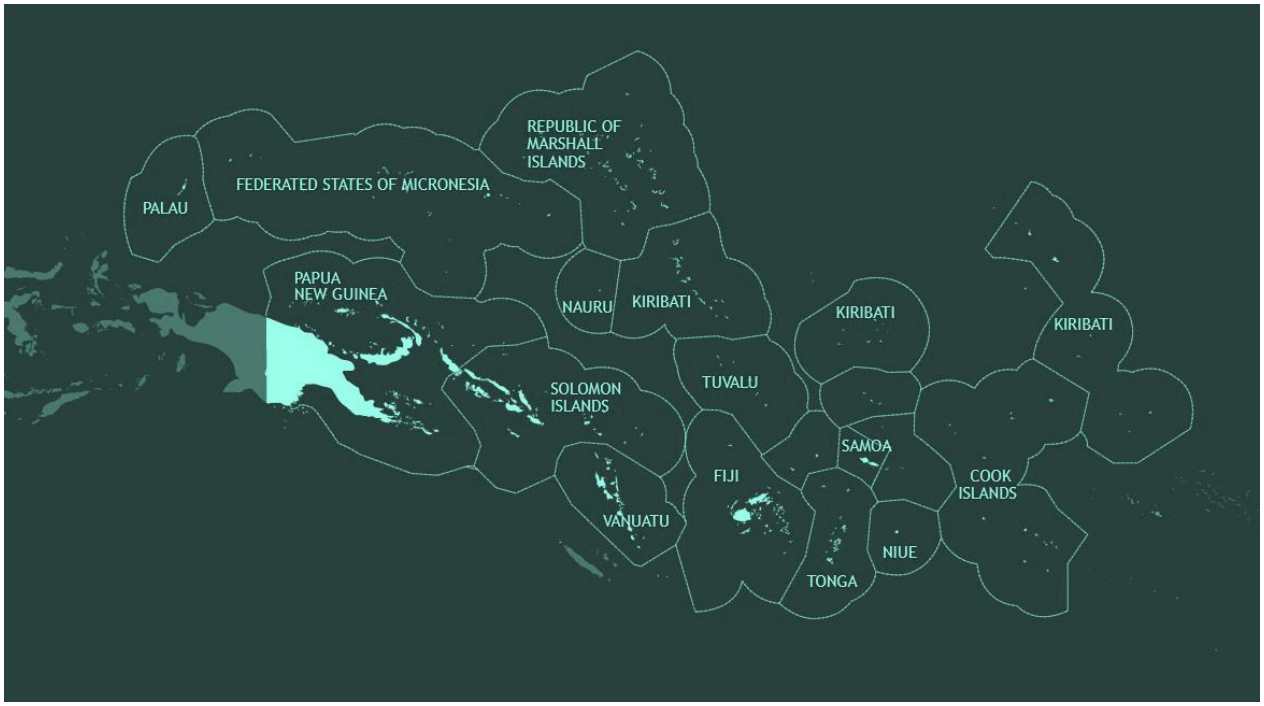
Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Countries of the Pacific Regional Transparency Network



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2 Background

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 catalyze increased ambition within country NDCs to contribute to the stated temperature goal of well below 2 degrees.

The outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Developing countries have improved capacity to undertake measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) and enhanced transparency framework (ETF) activities.
- Developing countries increasingly access information and get knowledge in support of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

3 Purpose and Scope of the Assessment of Transparency Capacities in the Pacific Network

A survey was sent out to the 14 Pacific Island countries in the region, with the intent to use the responses to assess the status of preparedness of countries to the ETF and to tailor the project support in the region. It also aimed at identifying countries main challenges and priorities for transparency. The survey questions were categorized according to the areas of the Enhanced Transparency Framework, including Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI), Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including Loss and Damage issues, as well as support needed and received. The survey also included questions on gender mainstreaming, other transparency support received as well as good practices in transparency efforts.

Out of the 14 Pacific Islands countries. In total, 13 out of 14 Pacific Islands countries have responded to the survey. These countries are Cook Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The responses are from government officials from the Climate Change division or departments in their respective countries.

The remaining country is Marshall Island, and it is expected that they would be responding to the survey soon.

4 Assessment of transparency capacities of the Pacific Network

The assessment below is done to identify the capacities of the Pacific region on transparency. All 14 countries in the Pacific region are classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and they have limited financial resources and technical capacities to respond to climate change. This assessment covers the four areas of ETF: GHG Inventory, NDC tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including loss and damage and Support needed and received.

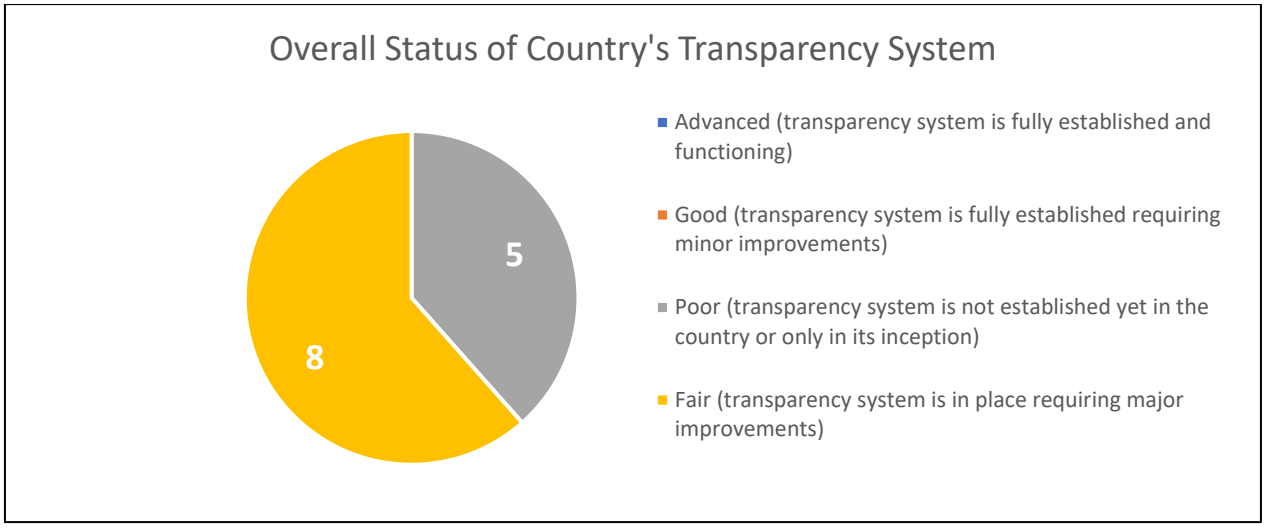
4.1 Overall transparency system and status of reporting

Under the ETF, countries are to transparently report on GHG Inventory, actions taken in climate change mitigation, adaptation measures and support provided or received through the submission of the biennial transparency reports and National Inventory Reports (NIR). This section focuses on the overall transparency system in the pacific region.

4.1.1 Transparency Status in the Pacific

The first category of the survey inquired the status at the overall transparency system as well as the status of reporting in each country in the Pacific. Eight out of thirteen respondent countries rated overall status of their country's transparency system to be able to continuously prepare and submit transparency reports, in line with the enhanced transparency framework, as fair. These countries are Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Vanuatu and Tonga. The other five countries (Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, and Solomon Islands) rated their transparency system as poor, meaning that it is not established yet in their country or is only in its inception phase. It is to be noted that none the countries have rated their system as good or advanced.

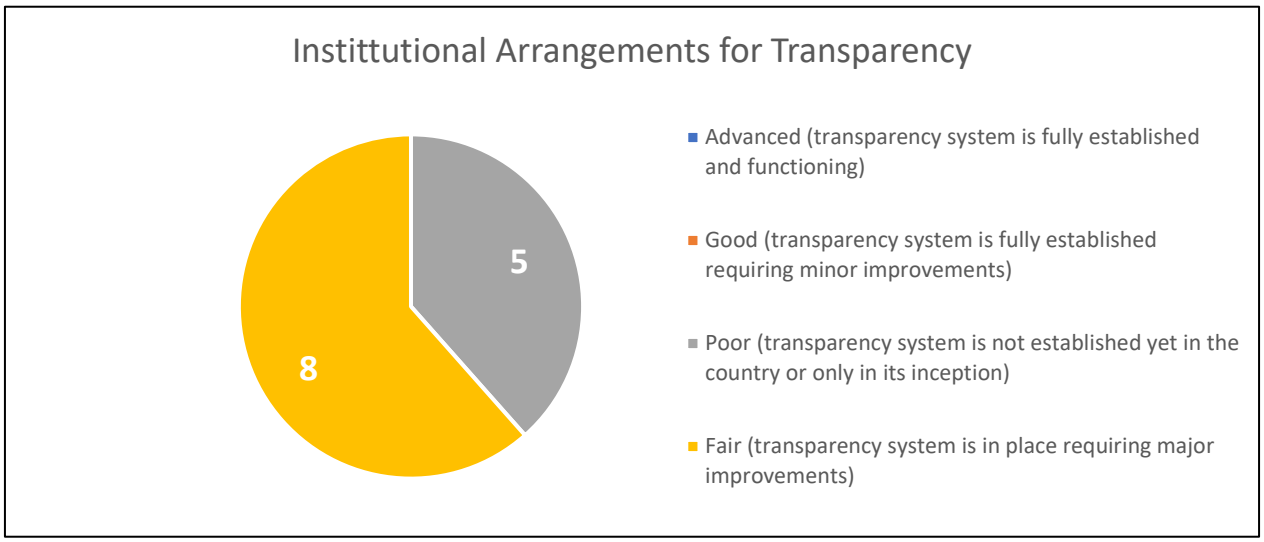
Figure 1 Overall Status of Country's Transparency System



4.1.2 Institutional Arrangements for Transparency in Countries

The same eight countries who rated their overall transparency system as fair equally assessed their country's institutional arrangement for transparency (including clearly defined roles of actors, legal arrangements, MoUs, data-sharing agreements) as fair. Conversely, the other five countries (Palau, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, and Solomon Islands) indicated to have poor, and the transparency system is not established yet in the country or is only in its inception stage.

Figure 2 Institutional Arrangements for Transparency



4.1.3 Transparency Reports under Preparation in the Pacific

The countries were also to indicate which transparency report(s) their country is currently preparing. There are 11 countries preparing their National Communications (NC) of which eight countries are on their third communication and three are on the fourth communication. A total of seven countries are currently preparing their first Biennial Update Report (BUR). Vanuatu have indicated that they are currently preparing their BTRs. Fiji and Solomon Islands are the two countries preparing their NIR, where Fiji is working on its first and Solomon Islands on its second. Lastly, PNG is currently not preparing any transparency report.

Table 1 The transparency reports the countries are currently preparing.

Countries	NC	BUR	BTR	NIR
Cook Island	4th	1st		
Fiji		1st		1st
Kiribati	3rd	1st		

Micronesia	3rd	1st		
Nauru	3rd			
Niue	3rd	1st		
Palau	3rd			
Samoa	3rd	1st		
Solomon Islands	3rd	1st		2nd
Tonga	4th			
Tuvalu	3rd			
Vanuatu	4th		1st	

4.1.4 Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking

This section explores how transparency reports are used at the national level beyond the reporting the UNFCCC. The survey inquired about whether countries have utilized the outcomes of their transparency system for national policymaking.

Table 2 Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking

Countries	**Transparency Outcomes Used for Policymaking**
Fiji	The data from the TNC were used to develop projections for the Low Emissions Development Plan for Fiji to reach net zero by 2050.
Nauru	The outcomes of the transparency system was used to develop the NDC.
PNG	The transparency outcomes were used to enhance the NDC.
Solomon Islands	The outcomes of the transparency system guided the development of relevant strategy and policy documents .
Vanuatu	The transparency outcomes were used to enhance the NDC.

Out of the 13 countries, five countries indicated to have used the outcomes of their transparency system for national policymaking, while the other eight countries have not done so (yet) or are not aware of it. For example, Fiji has used the data from its Third National Communication to develop projections for its Low Emissions Development Plan to reach net zero by 2050. Solomon Islands have used the outcomes of their transparency system to guide the development of relevant strategy and policy documents. In addition, Nauru has used their transparency outcomes to develop its NDC whereas PNG and Vanuatu have utilized their outcomes to enhance their NDC.

4.2 Transparency support received and good practices and lessons learned in transparency.

4.2.1 Transparency support received in the Pacific.

This section of the report focuses on the support for transparency received by countries. There are various organisations providing transparency support in the Pacific region. In terms of Enabling Activities, UNEP, UNDP, FAO provide support to prepare the NCs, BURs.

There are also national CBIT projects for Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and PNG implemented by FAO and the CBIT project in Fiji is implemented by UNEP.

Other organisations/initiatives providing support in the network include the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and ICAT.

UNEP is assisting Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Niue in preparing national communications. UNDP is supporting NDC activities through its Climate Promise Package in Tonga and National Communication development in Vanuatu.

The regional Pacific NDC Hub are also very active in the region as they provide support to the 14 pacific islands countries through their development partners such as The Pacific Community (SPC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Some of the support provided are strengthening MRV systems, preparing NDC Investment Plan, NDC Enhancement, NDC Implementation Roadmaps, peer review of Water and Sanitation Master Plan, Climate Smart Agriculture Plan.

ICAT has supported Fiji and Vanuatu and is in discussion with Tonga for future support.

Despite receiving support for enabling activities and CBIT from GEF some countries such as Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Nauru have stated that they are currently not receiving any support from the other organisations regarding transparency.

4.2.2 Good Practices and Lessons Learnt in Transparency

In the survey, countries were asked about good practices good practices and lessons learned in transparency they would either like to share with or learn about from other countries. There were seven countries that responded to this section in the survey.

Regarding sharing best practices and lessons learned with other countries,

- Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu and Niue mentioned that successful institutional arrangements need to be shared between the countries for peer-to-peer learning.
- Tonga mentioned that maintaining consistent conversations (weekly meetings) with international partners contribute to successful delivery of any type of support.
- Vanuatu mentioned that knowledge gain from trainings is shared within the organisation.
- Micronesia mentioned that good practices include network opportunities between managers to assist in avoiding the same mistakes.

Regarding learning about best practices and lessons learned from other countries, 11 countries expressed interest in hearing experiences in topics such as:

- Institutional arrangement for data sharing and management (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Palau).
- Setting up of a MRV system (Cook Islands, Niue).
- GHG inventory process for all sectors (Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu, Kiribati).
- Development of transparency reports (Vanuatu).
- Good practices and lessons learned on vulnerability and adaptation measures (Micronesia).

4.3 Implementing the ETF and preparation for the Biennial Transparency Reports

Under the ETF, countries are to report on the four areas GHG Inventory, NDC tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including loss and damage and Support needed and received.

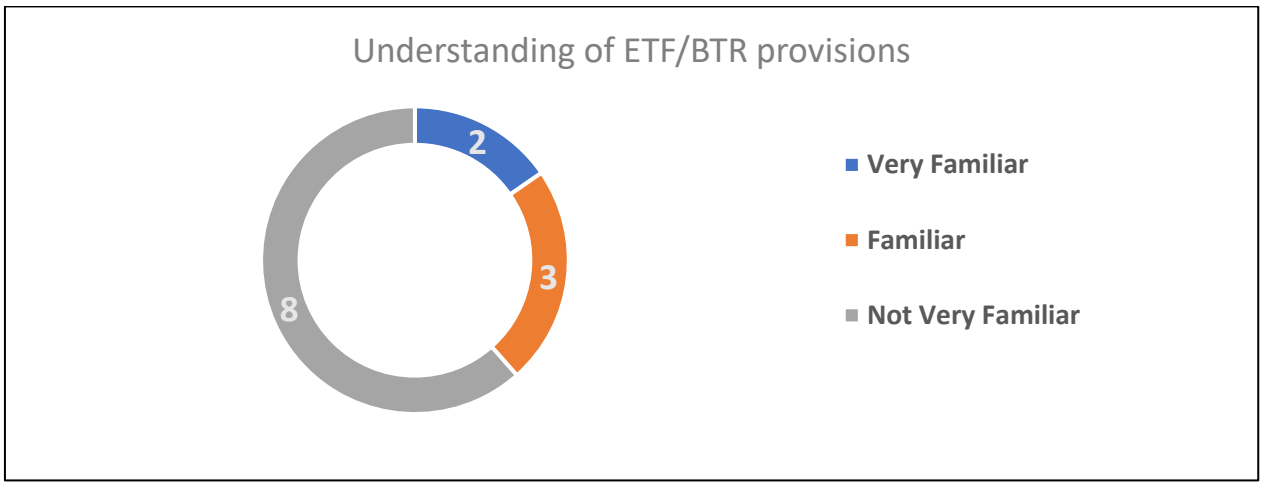
4.3.1 Understanding of ETF/BTR Provisions

The ETF represents an important component of the ambition cycle of the Paris Agreement by building trust and confidence that countries take action to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which define their national climate targets and actions.

The survey inquiries about countries familiarity with the ETF/BTR provisions, including the reporting templates. Here, only two countries (Tonga and Samoa) indicated to be “very familiar” with the ETF/BTR provisions Other three countries (Fiji, PNG, Micronesia), indicated to be “familiar”. The remaining eight

countries (Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, Niue, and Nauru) responded as not being very familiar. Figure 3 below shows the responses.

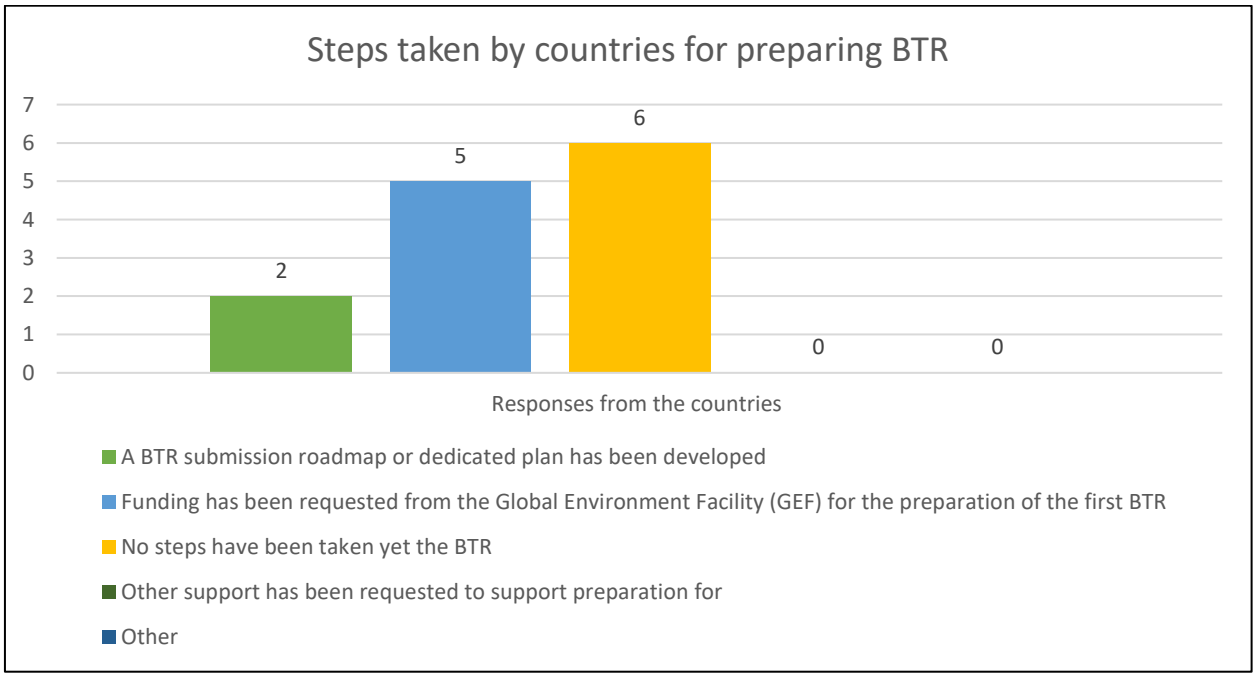
Figure 3 Understanding of ETF/BTR Provision



4.3.2 Initiating the first Biennial Transparency Report

In addition, countries were asked to provide information on whether they have taken steps preparing their first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). The below graph (figure 4) illustrates the responses.

Figure 4 Steps taken by countries in preparing BTR.



Most countries have not yet started the BTR preparation and have not yet requested GEF funding for the BTR development yet.

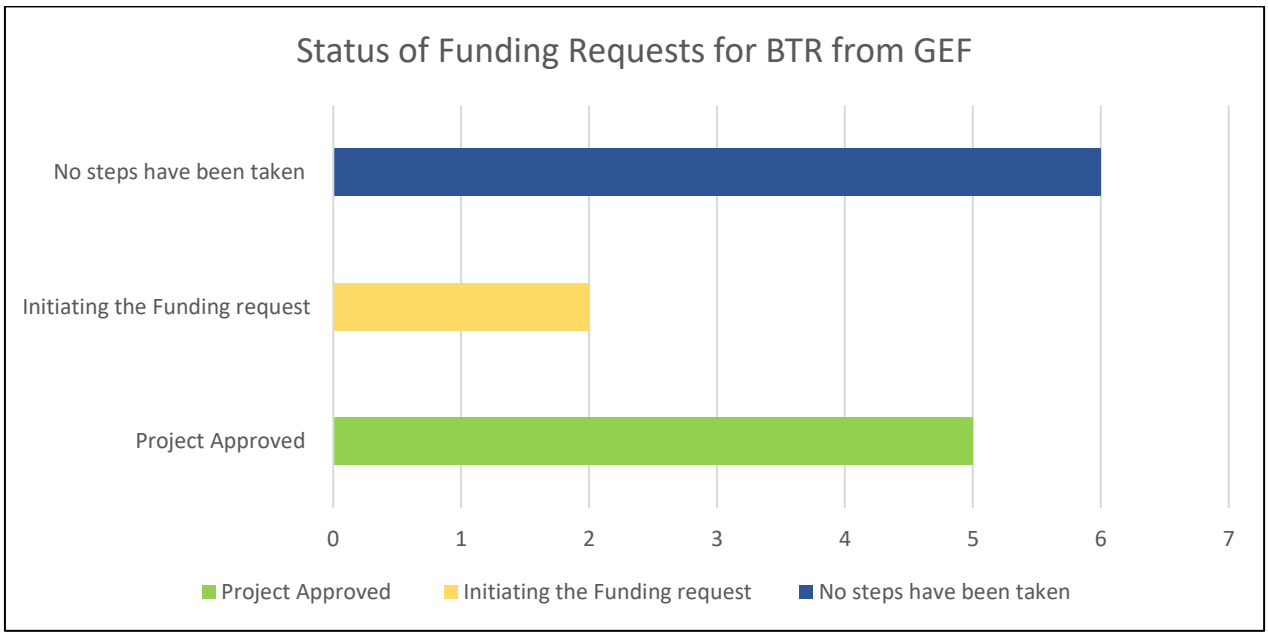
A total of six countries (Nauru, Niue Micronesia, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu) have stated that "*no steps have been taken yet*".

PNG and Samoa have indicated that "*a BTR submission roadmap or dedicated plan has been developed.*"

Cook Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Solomon Islands have selected "*Funding has been requested from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the preparation of the first BTR*".

When looking specifically at the status of funding requested from the GEF for the preparation of the first BTR, there were five countries who had their BTR project approved, six countries have not taken any step to request funding and two countries have initiated the funding request.

Figure 5 Status of Funding Requests for BTR from GEF



No steps have been taken: Nauru, Niue, Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Palau

Initiating the Funding request: PNG, Samoa

Funding approved: Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Cook Islands

4.3.3 Major Challenges in implementing the ETF.

Efforts needed to implement the ETF are becoming more significant and require significant capacity from countries. Thi8s section explores the challenges that countries are facing in their efforts to implement the ETF. The challenges identified by countries are as follow:

- Availability of data and sharing of data. (Fiji, Solomon Islands, PNG, Tuvalu, Tonga, Palau)
- Lack of proper hardware and software for record keeping. (Niue)
- Lack of local technical experts. (Fiji, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Palau, Vanuatu, Niue, Micronesia, Samoa, Nauru)
- Buy-in and support from stakeholders to provide data and information. (Fiji)
- Overload of Work/Short Staff and high staff turnover. (Tuvalu, Palau, Vanuatu, Samoa)
- Sensitivity of sharing data amongst the stakeholders. (Kiribati)

4.3.4 Potential Solutions to the Challenges

Transparency is a way for all countries to be informed about the actions that are being conducted by others, which is important for both national and international interests. These actions can be the solution that other countries may find useful. Respondents propose that the possible solutions to the challenges in the pacific are:

- Formalizing mandates for transparency systems within national legislation. (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati)
- Secure targeted support and resources for improving MRV. (Fiji, Palau, Samoa)
- Building local capacity to support MRV and ETF work. (Fiji, Cook Islands, Tonga, Palau, Vanuatu, Niue, Nauru)
- Peer to peer learning from other countries that have setup institution arrangements. (PNG, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
- Regular training, webinars, and workshops in different thematic areas. (Cook Islands, Micronesia)
- Access to funding to support human resource and technology. (Tuvalu, Cook Islands, Samoa)

4.4 Assessment of capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas.

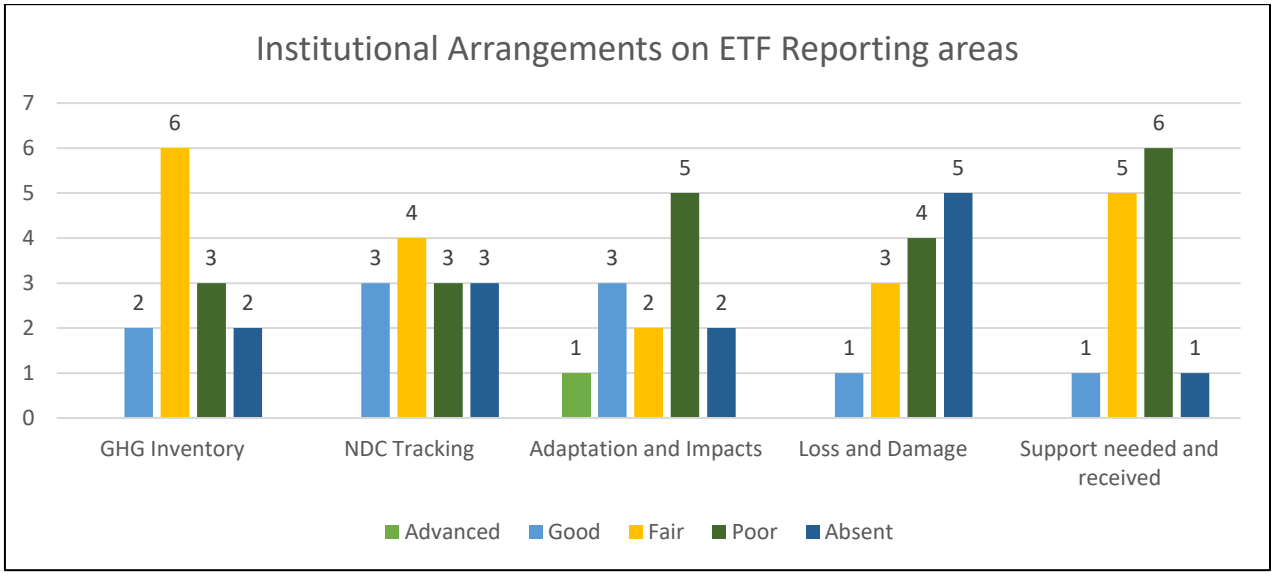
The reporting under the ETF will also indicate the additional needs for capacity building on reporting the climate actions in the countries. Thus, this section assesses the capacities related to the ETF area for the Pacific region.

4.4.1 Institutional Arrangements on the four ETF areas

This part of the survey looks at the assessment of specific capacities related to the four ETF reporting areas which are GHG Inventory, NDC Tracking, Adaptation and Impacts, including Loss and Damage as well as Support Needed and Received.

The chart below represents the responses by countries on how they assess the institutional arrangements for each of the four ETF reporting areas.

Figure 6 Institutional Arrangements on ETF Reporting areas.



The responses above show that most countries have rated their institutional arrangements (IA) for the ETF as fair, poor or absent. This indicates the need for robust institution arrangements in all the areas and the significant needs that countries have.

For GHG Inventory - about 85% (11 countries) rate their IA as either fair, poor or absent and 15% (2 countries) as good. this indicates the need for better institutional arrangement in the GHG Inventory area.

Similarly, for institutional arrangements for NDC Tracking 77% (10 countries) had selected either fair, poor and absent and the 23% (3 countries) had chosen good.

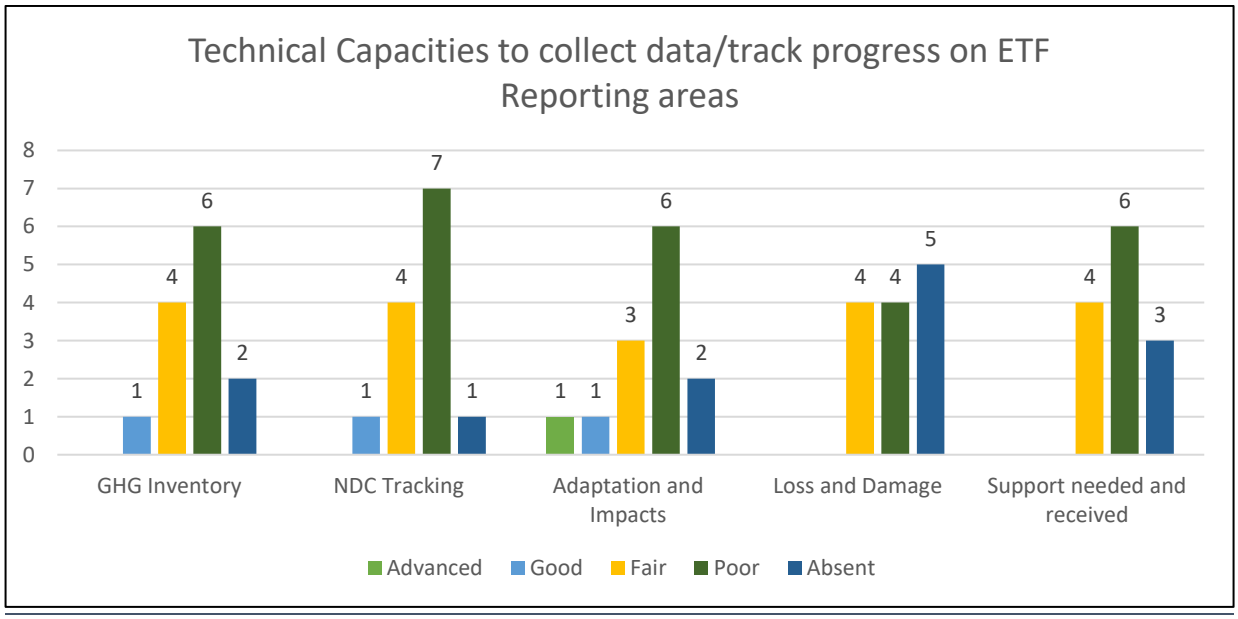
As for the area of Adaptation and Impacts - 69% (9 countries) selected either fair, poor and absent and the 31% (4 countries) selected good and advanced.

Additionally, for Loss and Damage and Support Needed and received areas, 92% (12 countries) selected either fair, poor and absent. Vanuatu was the only country to indicate that the institutional arrangement in their country is good.

4.4.2 Technical Capacities to collect data/track progress on ETF Reporting areas.

The second part of the section looks at the technical capacities to collect data and track progress in the four ETF reporting areas and report on them. The table below shows how the countries assess their technical capacities in these areas.

Figure 7 Technical Capacities to collect data/track progress on ETF Reporting areas.



As can be seen from the figure above, most respondents have rated their technical capacities for collecting data and tracking progress as either fair, poor, or absent. This shows the need to increase technical capacities in the countries for collecting data and tracking progress in the four ETF reporting areas.

In both the GHG Inventory and NDC Tracking areas, 92% (12 countries) selected either fair, poor or absent expressing the need for building capacity in the two areas. Only Vanuatu and Kiribati ranked their technical capacity as good for GHG Inventory and NDC Tracking respectively.

Likewise, about 85% (11 countries) selected either fair, poor and absent and the 15% (2 countries) selected good and advanced on technical capacities to collect/track data for Adaptation and Impacts.

Additionally, for Loss and Damage and Support Needed and received areas all of the countries selected either fair, poor or absent indicating the limited technical capacities in the countries to collect data and track progress in the two areas.

4.4.3 Specific technical capacities related to GHG inventories.

As part of the ETF, all Parties must use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. These guidelines provide methodologies for estimating national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks. They have been designed to assist countries in compiling complete, national inventories of GHGs and enable countries to present a clear picture of their achievements. This section presents the results of the survey in relation to GHG inventories, including IPCC Guidelines, IPCC software and QA&QC procedures.

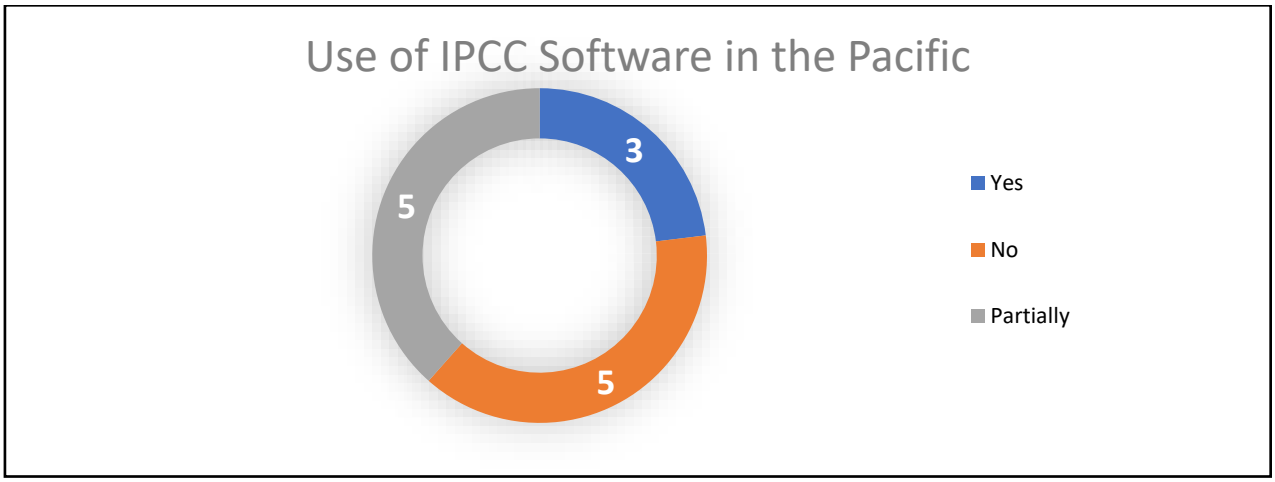
4.4.3.1 Use of IPCC Guidelines in the Pacific Region

Regarding the use of IPCC guidelines, the countries are mainly using for the preparation of their GHG inventory from 1996 IPCC Guideline, 2006 IPCC Guideline and 2019 Refinement of the IPCC Guidelines. All the survey participants of the 13 Pacific Island countries have selected the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for preparing its GHG Inventory.

4.4.3.2 Use of IPCC Software in the Pacific Region

Regarding the use of IPCC Software for the preparation of their GHG inventory, only three countries (Micronesia, Vanuatu and Cook Islands) indicated that they use the IPCC software to prepare their GHG Inventory data. Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga use the software partially while the remaining countries have (Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, PNG, Tuvalu) not used the IPPC software yet for the preparation of their GHG inventory.

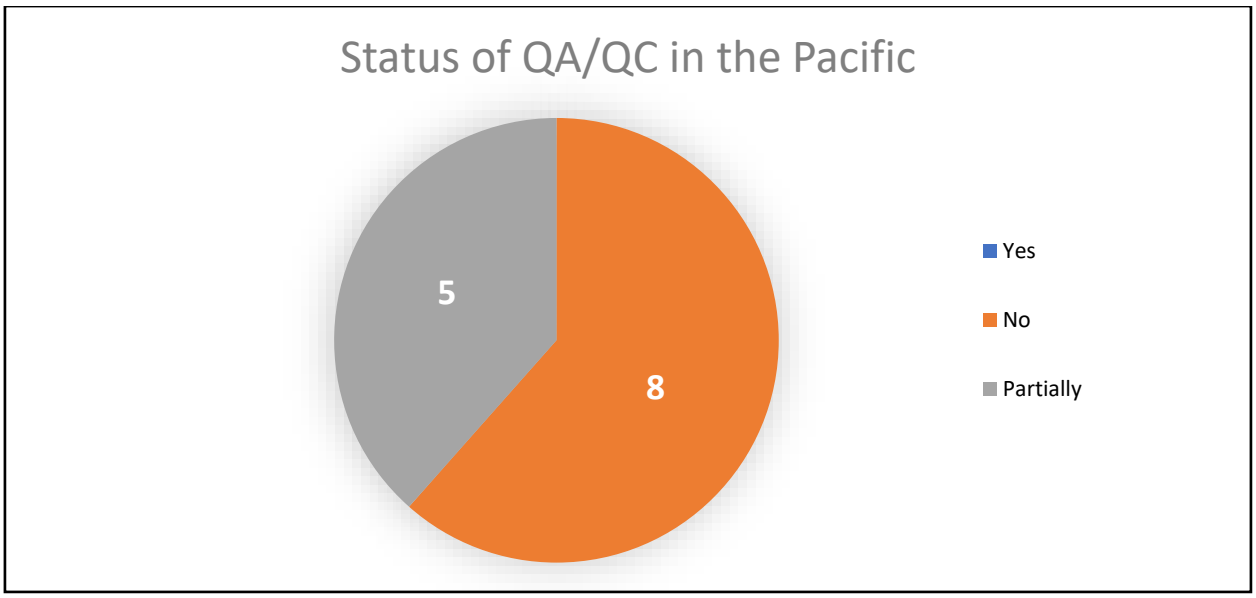
Figure 8 Use of the IPCC Software in the Pacific



4.4.3.3 *Status of Quality Assurance and Quality Check in the Pacific Region*

Regarding Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Check (QC), countries were asked if they have operational QA/QC procedures in place. A total of eight out of the 13 countries do not have operational QA/QC procedures in place in their countries Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Solomon Islands). Micronesia, Samoa, PNG, Vanuatu, and Fiji indicated to have partially established QA /QC procedures. It is to be noted that none of the countries have fully operational QA/QC procedures.

Figure 9 Status of QA/QC in the Pacific



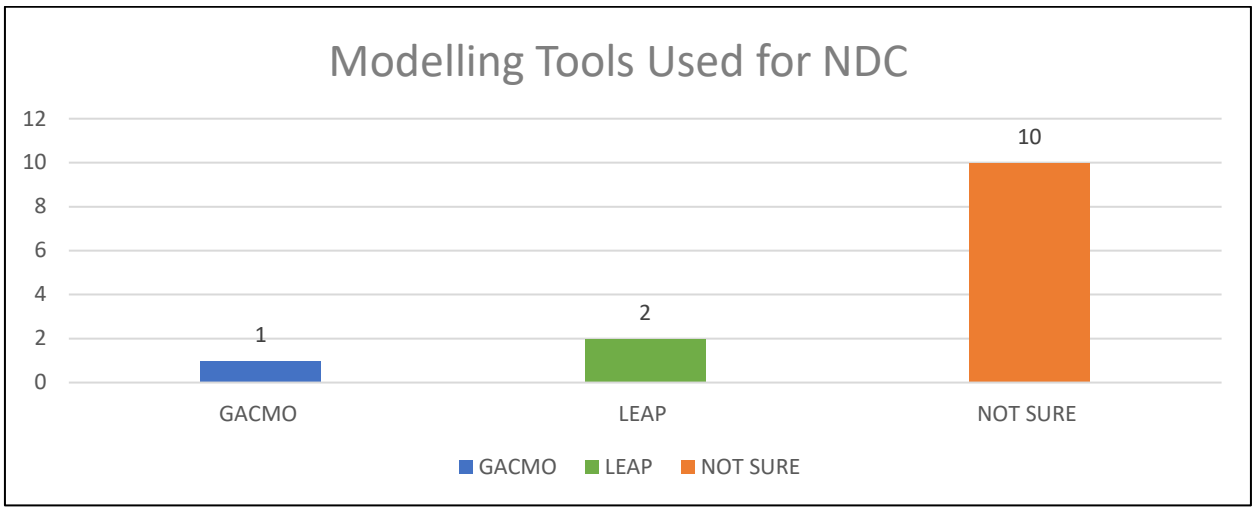
4.4.4 Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking

This part of the survey aimed at identifying specific technical capacities in the Pacific related to NDC tracking, including modelling tools, NDC indicators and the familiarity of staff with these modelling tools.

4.4.4.1 *Modelling tools used in the preparation of its NDC.*

Regarding modelling tools used for the preparation of countries' NDC. only three countries highlighted to have used a modelling tool. Fiji has used the Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model (GACMO), whereas Vanuatu and Solomon Island have used the Low Emissions Analysis Platform (LEAP) model. The survey participants from Cook Islands, Kiribati, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu were uncertain about which tool was used as they were not in the organisation at that time, or they were not the ones working on the NDC tracking.

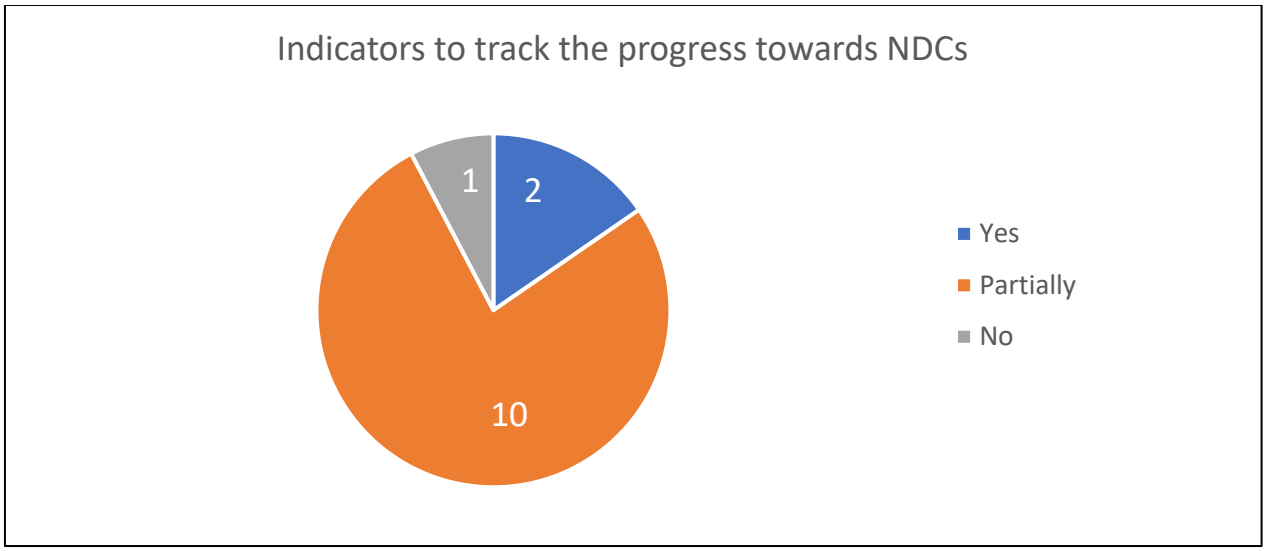
Figure 10 Modelling Tools Used for NDC



4.4.4.2 Indicators to track progress towards the achievement of NDCs.

Regarding NDC tracking, countries were asked if they identified relevant indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of their NDCs. Palau and Micronesia are the two countries that have identified indicators to track progress towards the implementation and achievement of NDCs. Ten countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu) have stated they have partially identified indicators whereas Kiribati has mentioned that they have not done so. Figure 12 illustrates the responses.

Figure 11 Indicators to track the progress towards NDC.



4.4.5 Specific technical capacities related to adaptation, impacts and loss & damage.

As countries have increasingly acknowledged the need to adapt to climate change, the demand and need for greater and more in-depth reporting on adaptation needs, priorities, plans, and actions and loss and damage has increased. This section aims to identify the capacities in the Pacific region in relation to reporting on adaptation, impacts and loss & damage.

4.4.5.1 Approaches, Methodologies and Tools for Impact, Risk and Vulnerability assessment

There are different tools and methodologies used by the countries in the Pacific regarding technical capacities related adaptation, impacts and loss & damage. Countries were asked to explain which approaches, methodologies and tools does their country use to assess impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities to climate change. The table below shows the responses of countries to the methodologies and tools does your country use to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change.

Table 3 Represents the approaches, methodologies and tools does your country use to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities to climate change.

Countries	**Approaches, Methodologies and Tools Used**
Fiji	Remote Sensing Platform
Kiribati	Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
Micronesia	Survey and questionnaires to the people effected
Nauru	Monitoring and Evaluation
Niue	Sectoral based planning
Samoa	Integrated Vulnerability Assessment
Solomon Islands	Laser Level Coastal Profiling
Tonga	Kobo Tool

The other five countries (Cook Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Tuvalu) have mentioned that there are currently no tools/methodologies being used to assess the impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities to climate change in their respective country.

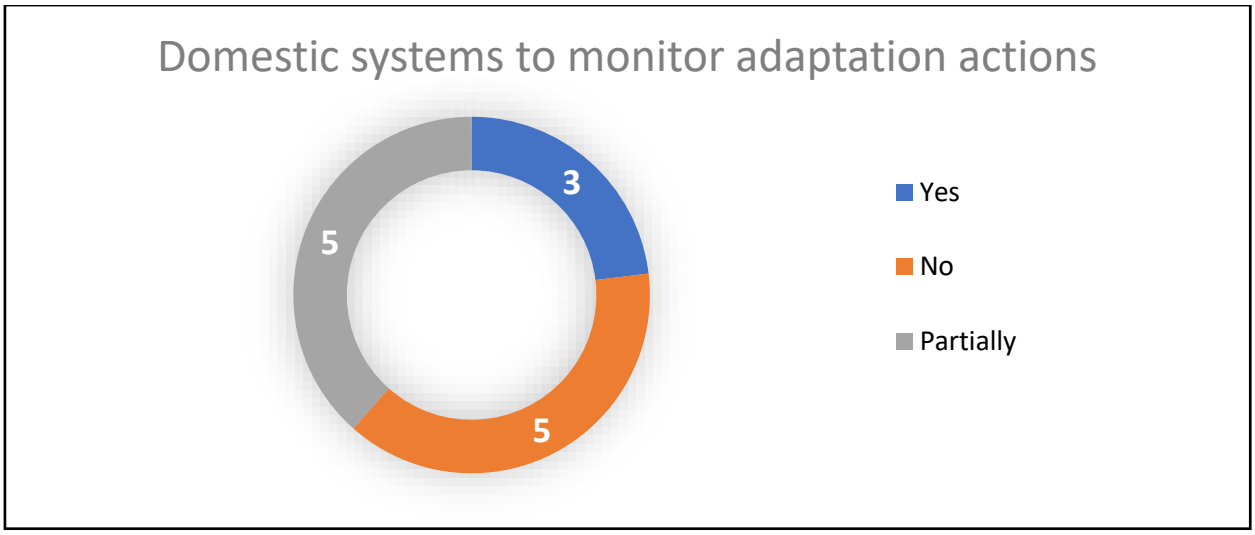
4.4.5.2 Domestic systems to monitor adaptation actions.

The next question asked the participants if their countries have established domestic systems to monitor and evaluate (M&E system) the implementation of their adaptation actions. The graph below represents the responses.

Only three respondents from Fiji, Kiribati, and Vanuatu indicated that they have established domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions, while five other countries (Tonga, Palau, Niue, Samoa, and Nauru) responded to having a partially established M&E. However, the

remaining five countries (Cook Islands, PNG, Micronesia, Tuvalu, and Solomon Islands) do not have a system in place yet to monitor their adaptation actions.

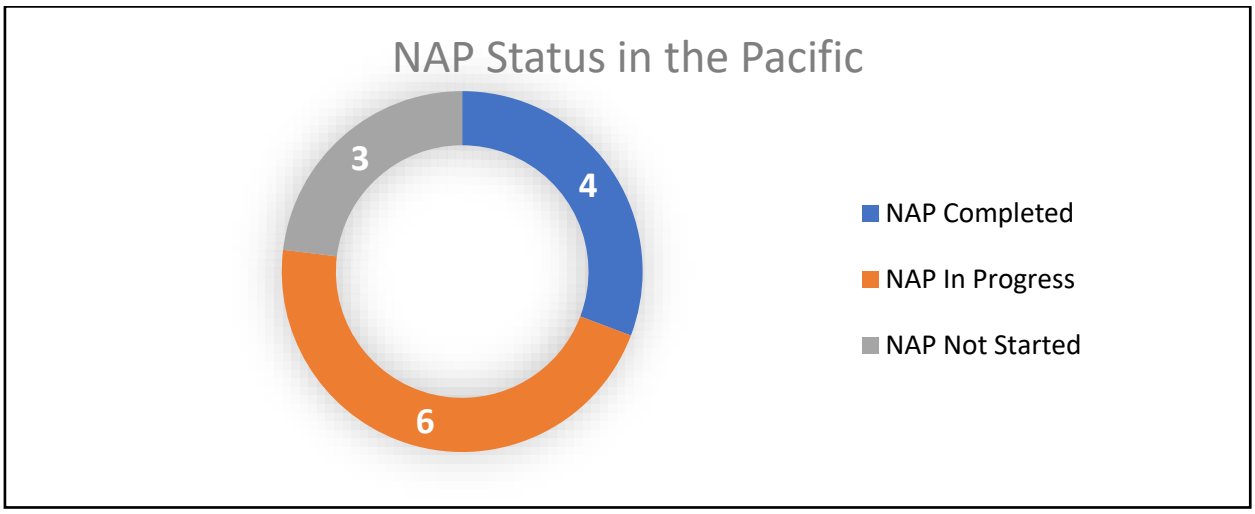
Figure 12 Domestic systems to monitor adaptation actions.



4.4.5.3 Status of NAP in the Pacific Region

The survey also inquired about countries' status in the development of a National Adaptation Plan. Four countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, and Niue) have already developed their National Adaptation Plan and expect for Niue the other three have submitted it to the UNFCCC. The other six countries highlighted that they are currently in the process of developing the NAP. The three countries that have neither developed a NAP nor are in the process are Cook Islands, Samoa and Solomon Islands. The figure 13 below illustrates the responses from the 13 survey participants.

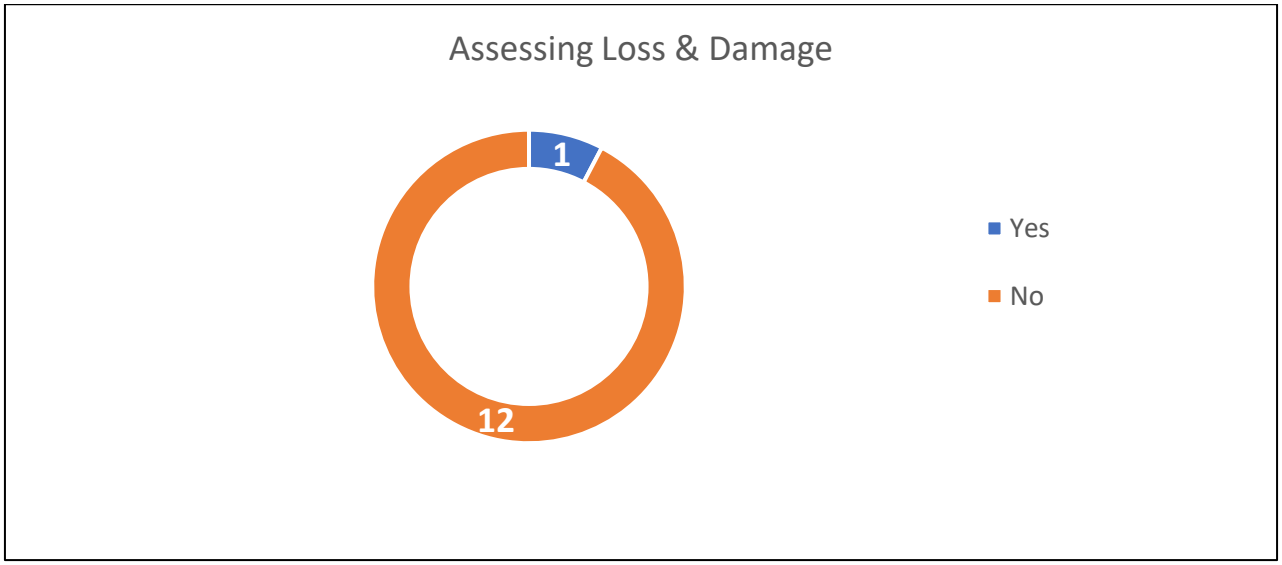
Figure 13 NAP Status in the Pacific



4.4.5.4 *Assessing Loss and Damage in the Pacific Region*

The survey also asked if countries started assessing losses & damages or are considering doing so. In the Pacific, Fiji has started the assessment of loss and damage through specific issues on loss and damage scenarios in certain areas for instance assessments used to determine that adaptation is not possible, and a community must be relocated. The other 12 respondents have stated that they have not assessed the losses and damages yet and are looking for financial support to start work.

Figure 14 Assessing Loss and Damage



4.4.6 Specific technical capacities related to support needed and received (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building)

Under the ETF, developing countries should provide information in their BTRs on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support needed and received. A proper tracking of international finances received is vital for countries as it will provide information on the different sources and amount of funds disbursed into the country.

4.4.6.1 *Tracking of Climate finance received*

The survey asked countries whether they track international finance received. All the thirteen countries have stated the international finance received is tracked. The tracking of financial support is done by all countries in the Pacific, and it is mainly coordinated by their Ministries of Finance. All multilateral, and bilateral support from donors and development partners are recorded by the countries. It is vital for countries to categorize the support received for financial, technology development and transfer, and

capacity-building as improved transparency on support received will allow comparisons to be made with donor reporting and allows donors/ development partners to provide more targeted support.

4.4.6.2 Estimation of Support Needed

The second part of the section asked the countries whether they estimate the support needed and to specify which area of support needed (financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building). Three countries (Fiji, Micronesia, Tonga, have indicated that they estimate support needed while the rest of countries indicated that they do it either partially or they don't.

When it comes to the second question inquiring on what areas of support are being estimated, there were mixed responses as some countries read it as an inquiry on whether they need further support on those areas.

4.5 Gender mainstreaming

The gender and climate change decision 3/CP.25, paragraph 11 "Encourages Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender and climate change focal point for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring".

In the pacific region out of the 14 countries only PNG has a focal point on UNFCCC National Gender & Climate Change Focal Point.

This section of the survey asked countries to provide information on their efforts to integrate gender considerations into the national transparency system, including NDC.

Table 4 The table below shows the responses from the countries.

Countries	**Efforts Undertaken**
Kiribati, Niue, Nauru and Tonga	Country collects sex disaggregated data in the national transparency system through the NC, BUR, and other reporting instruments
Nauru	Specific gender-responsive indicators are being monitored in relation to climate actions/measures/projects
Tuvalu, Kiribati Niue, and Tonga	Country has a Climate Change and Gender Action Plan that has clear actions to support or strengthen gender mainstreaming in monitoring and reporting systems
Niue and Tonga	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
Kiribati Niue, Nauru and Tonga	Gender analysis and sex disaggregated data is actively analyzed to influence climate policy, planning, and reporting
Cook Islands, Fiji, PNG, Tuvalu Kiribati and Vanuatu, Niue, Nauru	Country supports inclusive approaches in analyzing the impacts of climate change and benefits of climate actions for disadvantaged groups, including women.

and Tonga	
Solomon Island	No specific steps have been taken yet
Palau	Other: Not Sure

The results seem to indicate that most the Pacific islands countries are supporting gender equality in their countries in one way or the other, some have frameworks, national policy's that serve as a guiding document to mainstream gender in climate change initiatives. Additionally, most donors and development partners implementing projects include a gender component that is necessary for the completion of the project.

4.6 Priority support needs

Enhancing climate transparency is one of the most important tools in informing the Global Stock take at the international level and contributing to evidence-based policies at the national level. Enhancing transparency is therefore a priority for countries particularly with their efforts to transition to the new ETF provisions. The priorities for transparency support highlighted by the countries in the survey results were categorized under the ETF areas and are as follow:

GHG Inventory – Five countries requested support on the area of GHG Inventory. Fiji, PNG, and Vanuatu requested Modelling and understanding emission projection trends and drawing parallels to economic development and growth across all economic sectors. Tonga indicated support specifically on using the IPCC Software and Guideline. Samoa prioritized training for the GHG working group, sectors, and climate change staff on GHG inventories.

NDC Tracking – The three countries (Kiribati, Tonga and Tuvalu) have requested for support on NDC tracking. In terms of assisting them to track the progress of NDC targets.

PNG is the only country that has indicated support needed in the **Adaptation and Impacts, Loss and Damage** area. PNG would like to enhance their technical capacity on monitoring and reporting for adaptation and loss and damage.

PNG is also the country that has prioritized the need for technical capacity building for reporting on **Support needed and received**. All the countries track the support received from oversea donor agencies. However, potential support would be provided to countries on how to classify the support received into different sectors such as mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage.

Capacity Building on ETF – Now most countries in the pacific network have requested for capacity building trainings for the ETF. Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Niue Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu are the ten countries that have highlighted training and knowledge materials on the ETF is needed in the pacific.

Institutional Arrangements – There are countries (Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu) in the Pacific region that lack the proper institutional arrangements for data sharing. The GHG Inventory, the NDC tracking, support received, these are the basic information a country needs to have for the transparency reports. These can be easily gathered for reporting purpose when there a robust institutional arrangement in the countries. When all the data providers know their roles and responsibilities and timeliness for reporting to the national authority that prepares the reports.

Other priority support mentioned were: support for designing and implementing data and information collection strategies, Data and information management training, Identification of gaps and improvement possibilities, establishing clear institutional arrangements, Funding the roles, Establishment of the systems, Implementation of system, technical training, data management system and MRV support. The table below shows the responses for priority support highlighted by the survey respondents.

Table 5 The table below shows the analysis of the priority support.

Countries	GHG Inventory	NDC tracking	Adaptation and Impacts Loss and Damage	Support needed and received	Capacity Building on ETF	Other
Cook Island					*Training on transparency needs.* *Transparency under the Paris Agreement*	*Finance support to develop the report*
Fiji	*Modelling and understanding emission projection trends and drawing parallels to economic development and growth across all economic sectors*				*Training on the use of transparency information for policy making.*	*Data and information management training* *support for designing and implementing data and information collection strategies.*
Kiribati		*NDC tracking platforms and data management*			*Trainings on transparency system*	*Identification of gaps and improvement possibilities*
Micronesia					*Training*	*Establishing clear institutional arrangements* *Funding the roles*
Nauru					*Need all the support to develop a modality/framework on Transparency and training needs*	

Niue					*Capacity training on the system*	*Establishment of the systems Implementation of system*
Palau					*Capacity building*	*technical training data management system*
PNG	*Technical capacity on modeling tools.*		*Technical capacity on adaptation and loss and damage monitoring and reporting*	*Technical capacity for reporting on support needed and received.*		
Samoa	*Training for the GHG working group, sectors, and climate change staff on GHG inventories*				*Training on research and systematic observations*	*MRV support*
Solomon Islands					*Capacity building*	*Institutional set up Technical assistance*
Tonga	*Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Specifically on using the IPCC Software and Guideline)*	*Tracking the NDC*			*Capacity building on ETF and BTR*	
Tuvalu		*Tracking progress (software, etc.) for NDC,*				*Report writing (ETF/BTR/GHG writing) Institutional Arrangements needed so that the process of writing and reporting on the different reports is not on an ad hoc basis.*
Vanuatu	*GHG modelling and analysis across sectors.* *GHG inventory analysis*				*Capacity building on ETF*	

5 Conclusion

The results of the capacity needs assessment show that there are great needs for transparency-related support in the Pacific region. As all countries transition towards the ETF and the submission of their first BTRs in 2024, the countries in the Pacific Network require further training and capacity-building to better understand the reporting requirements of the ETF as well as support to improve national transparency systems The survey results showed quite clearly that national transparency systems and related institutional arrangements in the Pacific countries require substantive improvements. No country in the survey rated the state of their national transparency systems and related institutional arrangements as *good* or *advanced.* Instead, all countries indicated to have either *fair* or even *poor* national transparency systems and related institutional arrangements.

Regarding the transition to the ETF and preparation of the first BTR, many countries are still in the planning stage and only five countries have requested funding from the GEF for their BTR. While Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) have the flexibility to submit the BTR at their discretion, national transparency efforts and the preparation of reports can be an important national exercise to inform national policy-making as well as to track important elements such as adaptation actions and assess support needed or losses and damages. Countries need to be aware about available funding from the GEF to prepare BTRs as well as for national CBIT projects.

Countries in the Pacific face multiple challenges in the implementation of the ETF including lack of data or access to data, lack of hardware and software for record keeping, limited local technical expertise, high staff turnover and limited staff in the Climate Change Departments in countries.

Despite limited progress in some areas, countries can share lessons learned of their transparency efforts so far and benefit from peer-to-peer learning, and knowledge sharing, especially since countries face common challenges and thus similar solutions can be suggested working together with countries in the region.

An increase in technical capacity for GHG inventory, NDC tracking, adaptation, loss and damage and the support received and needed is crucial. These experts or trained personnel will then contribute greatly to the preparation and development of transparency reports.

The survey results highlight a large need for support on GHG Inventory specifically on using the IPCC Guidelines and Software, as well as the application of GHG modeling tools and inventory analysis.

The tracking of NDCs including tools, tracking platforms and indicators is another identified area for support provision. Technical capacity building for tracking adaptation, and assessing losses and damages is equally important, together with support for the tracking of support needed and received.

Support for robust institutional arrangements for transparency, including legal arrangements and MoUs, will be an important first step in some of the countries in the Pacific. The institutional arrangement should be legally mandated by the Climate Change Authority in the countries that allows/encourages/requires the data follow from other entities in the countries that will be used for national reporting purposes.

In addition to that, integration of gender considerations into the national transparency system is essential. Countries in the region have been undertaking efforts to promote inclusivity for all genders in the climate change initiatives. However, PNG is the only country who has a UNFCCC National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point thus other countries in the region should consider the identification and nomination of a National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point to the UNFCCC to strategically advance on gender mainstreaming in their respective countries.

Regarding transparency support already provided to the countries of the Pacific, a number of organizations such as UNEP, UNDP, FAO, the Regional Pacific NDC Hub and ICAT are already active in the region. FAO for instance is planning three national CBIT projects in the region. Despite existing support for transparency, some countries (Tuvalu, Kiribati, Cook Islands, Nauru) in the region seem and have received limited support so far. Despite the ongoing transparency support, countries have persistent needs that are not yet fully addressed through the existing support.

Therefore, to fill the gap and respond to the significant needs of countries as identified above, the CBIT-GSP support could provide critical support in the network in areas such as transition to ETF, GHG inventory, tracking of NDCs and Enhancing institutional arrangements and MRV system is needed.