



Central Asia and the Caucasus Network Annual Report CBIT-GSP

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Cover picture: Uzbekistan's Award Ceremony, Tokyo, Japan, 2024.

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Executive Summary

In 2024 the CBIT-GSP network for Central Asia and the Caucasus fostered **in-country support** for Central Asia and the Caucasus and increased its individual technical support to network countries by 40% compared to 2023.

In 2024, a total of **29 support activities** were organized and delivered to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Compared to 2023, the total number of support activities increased by 20% in 2024. While this is not a significant numerical rise, the more notable shift was from organizing the *events* to delivering the *in-country support activities* and *quality reviews*, which was strongly requested by CBIT-GSP Project Steering Committee (PSC) in 2023.

The main areas of support activities covered the following topics:

- Refinement of the national GHG Inventory and quality review of the developed narrative and CRTs for the selected sectors.
- Refinement of the NDC tracking chapter and quality review of the developed narrative and CTFs.
- Refinement of the Support Needed and Received chapter and quality review of the developed narrative and CTFs.
- Reporting on Adaptation and introduction to Loss and Damage topic.
- Institutional Arrangements for Enhanced Transparency.
- Gender and Climate Reporting.

The total number of attendees for all support activities in 2024 reached **450 participants** from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Compared to 2023, this represents a 13% decrease, primarily due to a shift in focus from regional events to in-country support activities, which typically involve fewer participants in the region.

In 2024, female participation in events and in-country support activities of Central Asia and the Caucasus accounted for 229 out of 450 participants, representing a **51% gender balance**. This was slightly lower than in 2023, where women made up 55% of participants in network events and in-country support activities. The satisfaction rate for the delivered support activities in 2024 was almost the same as in 2023. Specifically, **52.4%** reported respondents being **very satisfied**, while **47.6%** were **satisfied**, with no other options selected.

The CBIT-GSP fostered cooperation with various support providers on transparency in the region. Given a positive impact in 2023, the cooperation with IGES continued in 2024 within the **Mutual Learning Programme (MLP)** for enhanced transparency under Article 13. Cooperation with CAREC through its ReCATH project enabled to organize 3 joint regional trainings on adaptation reporting and LEAP modelling. RECC Azerbaijan Branch supported organization of two joint side-events on climate transparency in

Azerbaijan Pavilion at COP-29 in Baku. Cooperation with UN Agencies was also significant and mostly shaped on co-financing the in-country trainings and funding additional participants at regional in-person trainings organized by CBIT-GSP.

In 2025, countries will require further support in **refining their GHG inventories**, with a focus on meeting *MPG requirements, completing CRTs*, and delving into specific sectors and categories such as *AFOLU, LULUCF, and Waste*. Additionally, **NDC tracking** and training on *reporting mitigation actions, policies, and measures*, including completing the *required CTF tables*, remain high priorities.

Given the importance of revising national policies and updating NDCs (NDC 3.0), countries will need support in linking **policy formulation** (NDC 3.0) with **transparent reporting** (BTRs). Practical learning sessions and workshops on **Article 6, including approaches to its reporting within BTRs**, have also been identified as key needs.

Since most network countries submitted their first BTR in 2024, there is a pressing need to **prepare them for the TER review** and **enhance their understanding** of potential issues that may arise during the process.

Capacity-building sessions on using specific tools for climate reporting, such as **IPCC Software** and the **UNFCCC tool**, were identified as important areas where network countries require further support.

The scope of work for 2025 will also extend to **M&E systems for adaptation reporting, Loss and Damage**, and tools and approaches for reporting on **support needed and received**.

Glossary and Abbreviations

Table 1: Glossary and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CAC	Central Asia and the Caucasus
CAREC	Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CBIT-GSP	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – Global Support Programme
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRT	Common Reporting Table
CTF	Common Tabular Format
GACMO	Greenhouse Gas Abatement Cost Model
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
IA	Institutional Arrangements
ICAT	Initiative for Climate Action Transparency
IGES	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
L&D	Loss and Damage
LEAP	Low Emission Analysis Platform
MLP	Mutual Learning Programme
MoEJ	Ministry of Environment of Japan
MPG	Modalities, Procedures and Guidelines
NC	National Communication
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NIR	National Inventory Report
PATPA	Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement
PSC	Project Steering Committee
ReCATH	Regional Climate Action Transparency Hub for Central Asia
RECC	Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
TER	Technical Expert Review
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-CCC	UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

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Introduction

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) is a five-year global climate transparency project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and executed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC), which commenced in 202. The project is aimed at supporting developing countries in the transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and its Biennial Transparency Reports under the Paris Agreement.

The CBIT-GSP project includes multiple components and has various support modalities, supporting countries at the global, regional and national level. The main support modality of the project is its ten Transparency Networks, covering all developing countries around the globe, through which key support is provided to countries in the respective networks. The Transparency Networks are organized by region and/or language, and two of the Transparency Networks - the Lusophone Cluster and Francophone Network - are implemented through UNDP's Climate Promise Initiative, with funding from the Belgium government.

As of 2024, CBIT-GSP has been engaged in countries across all 10 of the CBIT-GSP Transparency Networks, delivering a range of activities, events and support across countries and their governments.

This annual report for the Central Asia and the Caucasus Network aims to provide an overall summary of the work that has been carried out across this Network in 2024, as well as identifying lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities for future work streams in 2025.

Network Background

The regional network of **Central Asia and the Caucasus** includes two separate regions. **Central Asia**, which is central region of Asia, extending from the Caspian Sea in the west to the border of western China in the east, and consisting of *Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan*. The **Caucasian region** is lying between the Black Sea (west) and the Caspian Sea (east) and within the CBIT-GSP network represented by *Azerbaijan, and Armenia*. Georgia, though Caucasian country, was attributed to Eurasia network of CBIT-GSP. See Pic. 1.

All countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus exhibit similar economic development trends, with Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan relying heavily on fossil fuels as key drivers of their economies. Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Armenia are mountainous countries whose economies largely depend on water and land development. All countries of the network are former Soviet Union and despite of having their own national language, can fluently speak and comprehend Russian.



Pic.1. Map of Central Asia and the Caucasus

In the frameworks of the CBIT-GSP, each network member country has designated a country focal point and thematic experts specializing in (i) GHG inventory, (ii) NDC tracking/mitigation, (iii) Adaptation, and (iv) Climate finance. In addition, for some countries gender experts were also proposed.

The CBIT-GSP network was established in late 2022 when the nominations for all country focal points were completed, with the actual commencement of the project support taking place from early 2023. In 2024, the CBIT-GSP continued providing its technical support to the network members and countries based on their needs, which were identified in 2023-24 Capacity Needs Assessment, as well as discussed during the Annual Network Meeting for Central Asia and the Caucasus, which was held on 20th of December 2023¹.

The implementation of the support activities for the network countries were delivered in accordance with the annual work plan and addressed all needs which have been determined by the countries in 2023.

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus are classified as developing countries, with no SIDS or LDCs among them. As a result, all network members report under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement in the standard format. Within the network, only Kazakhstan reported as an Annex I Party, which required it to submit its NIR annually and Biennial Reports every two years.

¹ Network Meeting Report, 2023. Available here: [Summary Report Annual Network Meeting Central Asia and the Caucasus 20 Dec 2024.pdf](#)

Network Achievements 2024

As of January 01, 2025, 4 out of the 7 countries within the network have submitted their first BTRs; with Kazakhstan submitting its BTR before the commencement of COP-29, and Azerbaijan submitting a few days before the end of COP-29. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan submitted their BTRs by the end of 2024. This correlates to nearly 57% of the network countries adhering to the reporting commitments under the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. Based on the ongoing discussions with other network countries, it is expected that Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan will be submitting their BTRs in 2025.

The effectiveness of the technical support provided by CBIT-GSP in preparation of the climate transparency report in 2024 was critical and specifically recognized by parties. For example, Azerbaijan recognized this support in its BTR's acknowledgement chapter.

In 2024, a total of **29 support activities** were organized and delivered to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus. Most of the network activities included regional and in-country support trainings, and quality assurance checks of the BTR and its mandatory chapters.

The post-training assessment showed that the support activities for Central Asia and the Caucasus in 2024 were highly effective in enhancing capacities of the network members on climate transparency. For example, 47.6% of respondents rated the impact of the trainings as "very significant" and another 47.6% as "significant".

Most of the network members applied the knowledge and skills gained during the technical support activities to the preparation of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), National GHG Inventory Report (NIR) and National Communication (NC).

In 2024, network member countries participated in the Global Transparency Forum, organized by CBIT-GSP and held on May 20–21, 2024, in Tokyo, Japan. Country representatives actively contributed to discussion sessions and breakout groups, addressing the needs and support required to facilitate the submission of their first BTRs. During the Forum, an Award Ceremony was held to acknowledge countries' contributions to experience sharing, continuous learning, and the use of climate platforms. **Uzbekistan**, a member of the network, was recognized as a *Dedicated Learner* and received certification from CBIT-GSP.

Network Activities 2024

Summary of Activities

While in 2023, the support was mostly focused on organization and delivery of capacity building events and exchange of experience webinars at **regional level**, the activities in 2024 were aimed to foster **in-country support** for the countries of the network. For example, the CBIT-GSP increased its individual technical support to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus by 40% compared to 2023.

The main areas of support in 2024 both at the regional and in-country level, were:

- Refinement of the national GHG Inventory and quality review of the developed narrative and CRTs for the selected sectors.
- Refinement of the NDC tracking chapter and quality review of the developed narrative and CTFs.
- Refinement of the Support Needed and Received chapter and quality review of the developed narrative and CTFs.
- Reporting on Adaptation and introduction to Loss and Damage topic.
- Institutional Arrangements for Enhanced Transparency.
- Gender and Climate Reporting.

Total activities

In 2024, a total of **29 support activities** were organized and delivered to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Fig. 1.). These included:

- 9 Events on capacity building, exchange of experience and outreach
- 12 In-country support activities
- 8 Quality reviews for the selected chapters and components of the BTR

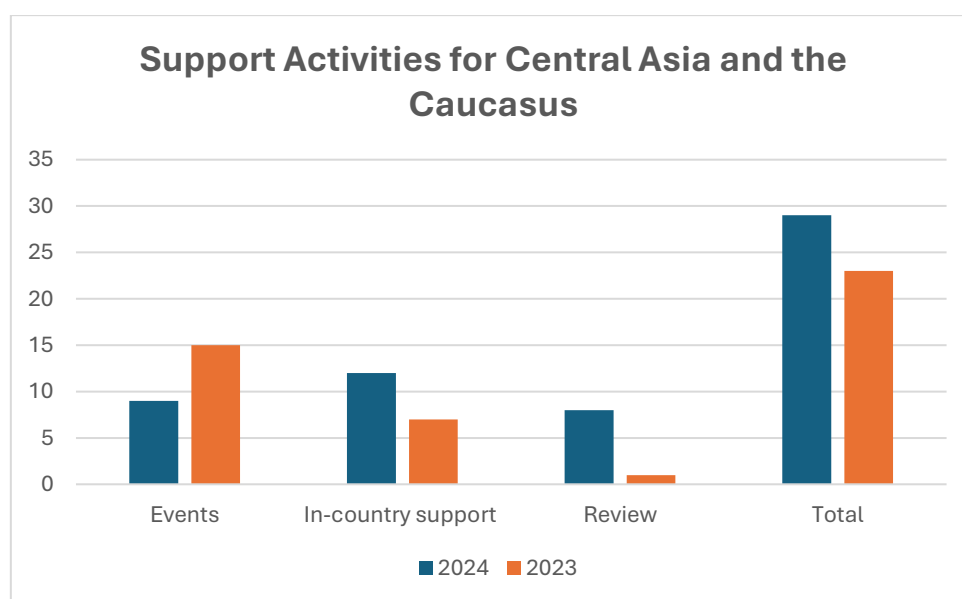


Figure 1. Support activities on Transparency for Central Asia and the Caucasus in 2024

Compared to 2023, the number of support activities increased by 20% in 2024. While this is not a significant numerical rise, the more notable shift was from organizing the events to delivering the *in-country support activities* and *quality reviews*, which was strongly requested by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) in 2023.

The total number of attendees for all support activities in 2024 reached **450 participants**, from **Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**. Compared to 2023, this represents a 13% decrease, primarily due to a shift in focus from large-scale events to in-country support activities, which typically involve fewer participants in the region (Fig. 2).

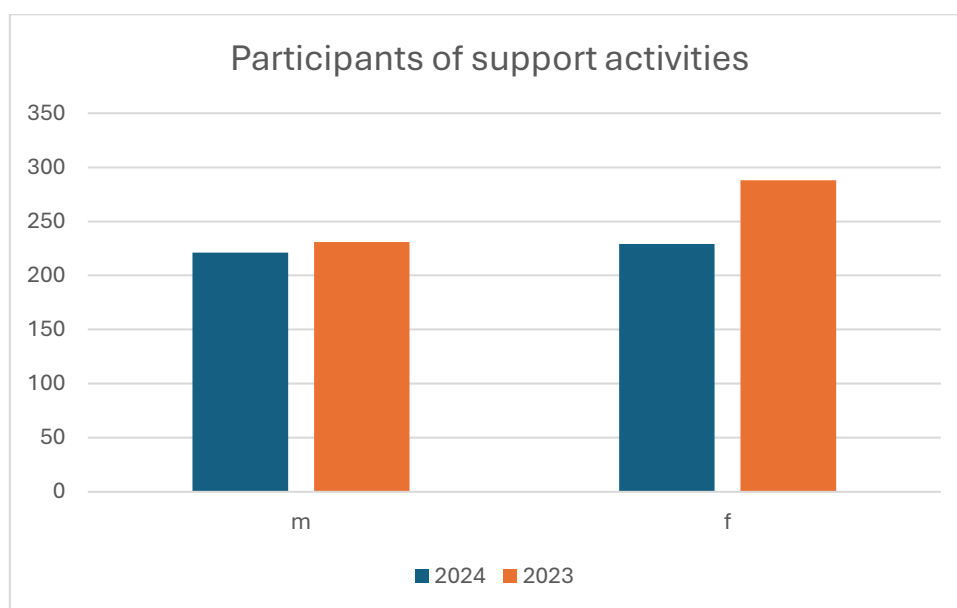


Figure 2. Gender-segregated participants of support activities

Events

In 2024, **9 events** were organized to support capacity building, exchange of experience and awareness on climate transparency for the network of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Fig. 3).

The total number of participants at these events reached more than **250 people** from *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan*. The number of organized and participated events in 2024 was lower compared to 2023². The main breakdown of the events in 2024, was the following:

1. **Three In-person Trainings on**
 - a. GHG Inventory (23-25 of April 2024, Tbilisi, Georgia),
 - b. Adaptation Reporting and Loss and Damage (26-28 of June 2024, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan), and

² In 2023, the total was 15 events for the network countries.

- c. Emission Projections using the LEAP Modeling Tool (2-4 July 2024, Dushanbe, Tajikistan).
- 2. **Two Technical Webinars on**
 - a. GHG Inventory (April 9th, 2024) and,
 - b. Adaptation Reporting (5-19 June 2024).
- 3. **One Experience Sharing Event on**
 - a. Gender mainstreaming and climate reporting.
- 4. **Three outreach events on climate transparency**, where CBIT-GSP made a contribution in the sessions on ETF and support.

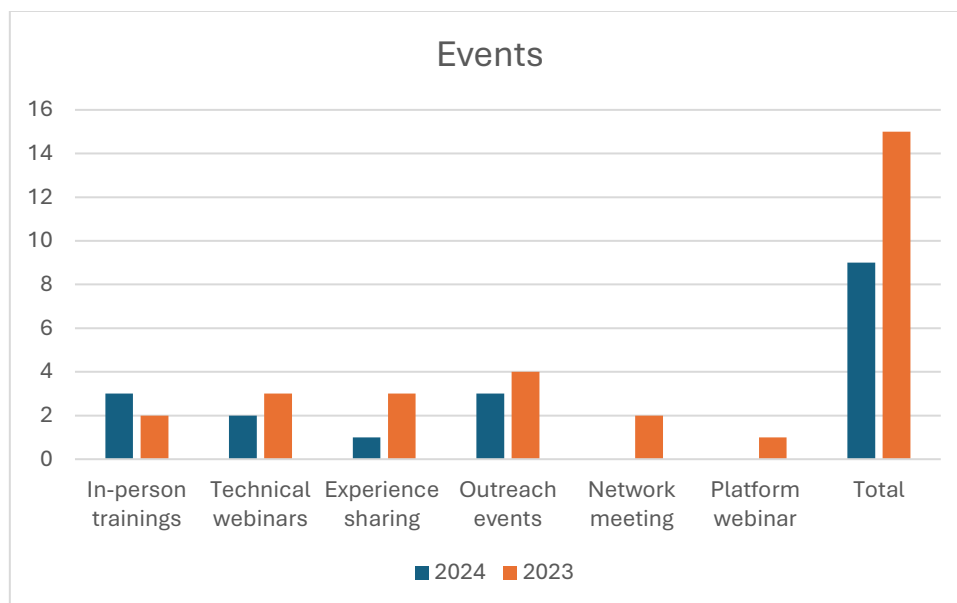


Figure 3. Events for transparency in 2024

One of the key agenda items in the events delivered in 2024 was the sharing of experiences by the Central Asian and Caucasian network countries on various climate transparency topics, promoting a collaborative approach. For instance, six out of nine network events included sessions dedicated to experience exchange, with contributions from all seven network countries.

In-country Support

In 2024, **12 in-country support activities** were delivered to all member countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Fig. 5). The in-country activities supported the participation of **200 participants** from Central Asia and the Caucasus. Compared to 2023, the in-country support provided to the network countries in 2024 was higher by 40%.

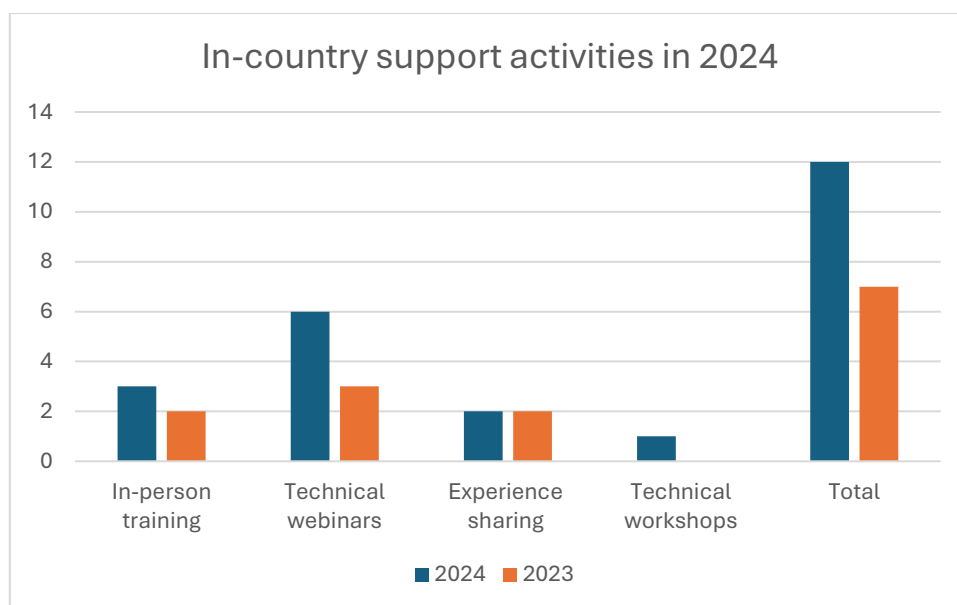


Figure 4. In-country support activities for transparency in 2024

The break-down of in-country support activities in 2024 were as following:

1. **The Mutual Learning Programme (MLP)** was held for **Group 1: Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan**, to improve the enhanced transparency reporting for mitigation actions in **Agriculture Sector** and was a continuation of collaborative efforts between CBIT-GSP and IGES in working with the same countries since the first MLP, which started in 2023. The **Group 2: Armenia and Kazakhstan** were a newly established pair of countries which enjoyed the MLP, to improve the enhanced transparency reporting for mitigation actions in **Energy Sector**.

In the frameworks of MLP:

- **One virtual workshop** was conducted on 30th of May 2024, for Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan to kick-off the programme of work on reporting for mitigation actions in Agriculture, and
 - **One in-person workshop** was conducted on 30th of July 2024 (Baku, Azerbaijan) for Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Japan, Georgia and Moldova to discuss the results of the exercises completed under MLP.
 - **Three virtual workshops** were conducted for Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Japan to start, discuss the outputs and finalize the exercises on reporting for mitigation actions in Energy Sector under MLP.
 - More information about MLP for [Group 1](#) and [Group 2](#).
2. **In-person training on IPCC Software tool of a GHG Inventory for Energy Sector for Tajikistan**, which was held on 15-18 January 2024, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
 3. **In-person training on Land Use Classification of a GHG Inventory for Turkmenistan**, which was held on 3-5 of April 2024, in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
 4. **In-person training on GACMO modeling for Uzbekistan**, which was held on 9-11 of July 2024, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

5. **Technical support in developing BTR roadmaps for Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan** by having organized **three virtual consultative meetings** in January-April 2024.
6. **One webinar for Kyrgyzstan** to improve their understanding on **gender mainstreaming** on climate change and reporting, which was held on 14th of February 2024.
7. **One virtual workshop for Tajikistan**, to improve their **knowledge on ETF** and stimulate the exchange of experience on **institutional arrangements for transparency** between Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which was held on 17-18 of July 2024.

In addition to the in-country support activities mentioned above, support provided in quality checking of the BTRs was also prominent in 2024. This includes the following countries:

- **Kazakhstan:** (1) QA Check of NID for Energy, IPPU and Waste Sectors; (2) Review of BTR's NDC Tracking Part; (3) BTR's Adaptation Part and (4) BTR's Support Needed/Received Part
- **Azerbaijan:** (5) QA Check of NID and CRTs for IPPU and Waste Sectors, and (6) review of NDC textual part and CTFs.
- **Uzbekistan:** (7) QA Check of NDC's CTFs and (8) Support Needed/Received.

In total, **8 quality checks** were provided to the countries of the network. Compared to 2023, support in quality checks was eight times higher in 2024. This support has undoubtedly helped the countries to refine their reporting on BTR and improve the quality of information and data reported in their first BTR.

Gender Analysis

In 2024, female participation in events and in-country support activities of Central Asia and the Caucasus accounted for 229 out of 450 participants, representing a 51% gender balance. This was slightly lower than in 2023, where women made up 55% of participants in network events and in-country support activities.

Satisfaction Results

The satisfaction rate for events and in-country support activities in 2024 was similar to that of 2023. This year, 65% of participants rated the activities as very satisfactory, compared to 69% in 2023. Additionally, 32% of respondents found the activities satisfactory, while 3% rated them as neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory. In 2023, these figures were 30% and 1%, respectively, for the same categories. See Fig. 5 for more details.

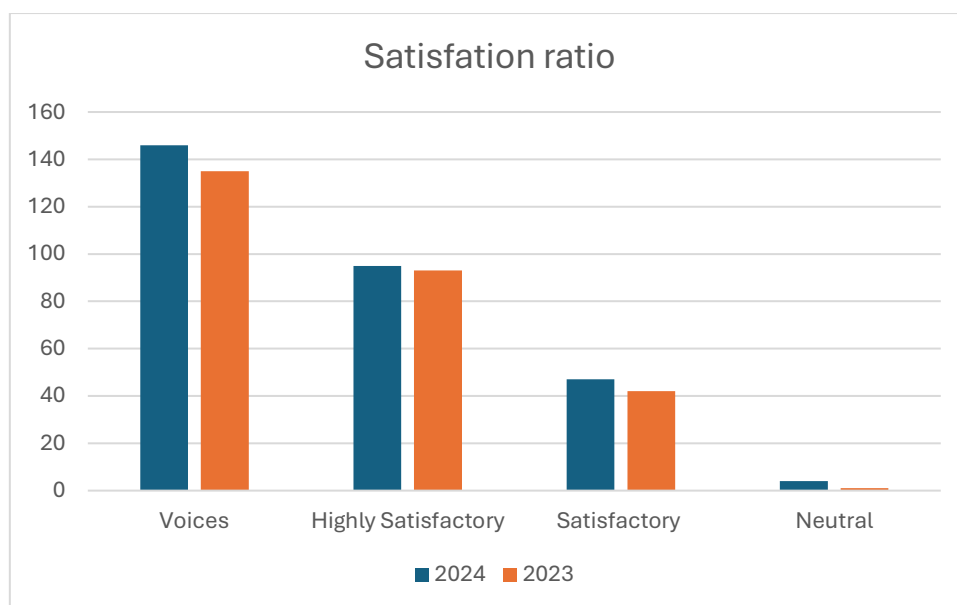


Figure 5. Satisfaction results in 2024

Partnerships and Collaborations

In 2024, the CBIT-GSP fostered partnerships and collaboration with various support providers and agencies operating in the Central Asia and Caucasus region.

1. Cooperation with IPCC

- CBIT-GSP enjoyed cooperation with IPCC in planning and delivering the 3-days practical training on the use of **IPCC software for the Energy Sector for Tajikistan**. The training took place on **15-18 of January 2023 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan**. CBIT-GSP covered the travel expenses of the consultant from IPCC, while the IPCC helped to elaborate the concept note and deliver the training on site.

2. Cooperation with FAO:

- FAO supported Turkmenistan in improving their national GHG Inventories for **Land Classification and Land Category**. FAO hired and funded the international consultant, while CBIT-GSP covered travel expenses of the consultant. The in-person 3-days training was held on **3-6 of April 2024 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**. UNDP country office covered the catering expenses of the event.
- FAO supported CBIT-GSP and CAREC in populating the agenda of the regional in-person workshop on adaptation reporting with the **session on loss & damage**, particularly nominating the national experts to present FAO methodology on D&L and conduct practical exercises for the participants from Central Asia. The workshop took place on **26-28 of June 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, with FAO-led session on D&L methodology on 28th of June 2024.
- Using PATPA/FAO tool while addressing the support request on BTR road map development for Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The exercise was held from January until April 2024.

3. Cooperation with IGES and Ministry of Environment of Japan (MoEJ)

- Cooperation with IGES on Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) to build capacities of the developing countries on climate reporting for mitigation actions under the Article 13 of the Paris Agreement:
- **Group 1: Participating countries – Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan and Japan**
 - o Selected Sector – Agriculture
 - o Actions: mitigation actions and NDC tracking for Agriculture by filling in the required CTF table 5, writing-up the methodology and assumption assessment and reviewing each other assignments, presenting the results and lessons
- **Timeline:**
 - o May 30th 2024: Kick-off meeting (virtual)
 - o July 30th: Main meeting to introduce the results of the Exercise 1 and determine further needs for support (in-person)
- **Group 2: Participating countries – Armenia, and Kazakhstan and Japan**
 - o Selected Sector – Energy
 - o Actions: mitigation actions and NDC tracking for Agriculture by filling in the required CTF tables (CTF5, CTF1 and CTF2), writing-up the methodology and assumption assessment and reviewing each other assignments, presenting the results and lessons
- **Timeline:**
 - o May 10th 2024: Kick-off meeting
 - o July 25th, 2024: Main meeting to introduce the results of the Exercise 1 and present the Exercise 2
 - o October 1st, 2024: Final meeting to present the Exercise 2 and lessons learned

4. Cooperation with CAREC (via ReCATH)

- Cooperation on joint **side-event on transparency at the Central Asia Climate Change Forum (CACCC-2024)**, which was held on 27th of May 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- Joint series of **virtual workshops on adaptation reporting**, which was held **from 5th of June until 19th of June 2024** online. CAREC shared its zoom space and hired the interpreter for 2 out of 4 days of the virtual workshops.
- Joint regional in-person **workshop on adaptation reporting** for the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, which was held on **26-28 of June 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**. CAREC invited participants from all five countries of Central Asia physically and two countries of the Caucasus online. CAREC also paid for travel expenses and catering. CBIT-GSP populated the agenda and determined and invited the speakers/presenters.
- Joint regional in-person **training on LEAP modeling** for the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, which was held on **2-4 July 2024 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan**. CAREC invited all participants from the region, incl. covering travel

expenses of 2 experts from Armenia and Azerbaijan respectively. CBIT-GSP delivered the training and covered the travel expenses of the consultant.

- Inviting CBIT-GSP regional network members and participants from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eurasia to participate at **ReCATH webinars on climate transparency** (a) ETS webinar with exchange experience from Kazakhstan (15th of August 2024); (b) webinar on linkages between Article 6 and Article 13 (26th of September 2024) and (c) ICAT's methodology on policy impact assessment for Agriculture (2nd of Oct and 15th of Oct, 2024).

5. Cooperation with RECC Azerbaijan Branch

- RECC Azerbaijan supported the on-site organization and hosting of the **in-person main meeting of MLP** with participation of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Moldova and Uzbekistan, which was held on 30th of July 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan (see point 3).
- RECC Azerbaijan and CBIT-GSP organized **two joint side-events on climate transparency on 16th of November 2024 in Azerbaijan Pavilion**, at COP-29, which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

6. Coordination with UNDP

a. UNDP Kazakhstan

- Cooperation with UNDP Kazakhstan was established in the end of 2024, with the start of implementation of BTR1. CBIT-GSP and UNDP Kazakhstan discussed the needs for support activities and collaborative actions in 2025.

b. UNDP Kyrgyzstan (via Climate Promise)

- Inviting the experts and practitioners from Central Asia, the Caucasus and Eurasia to participate in the three days practical training on introducing **ETF reporting tool (UNFCCC)**, which was held on **16-18 of May 2024 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- Coordination with the UNDP Kyrgyzstan on mapping out existing and planned capacity building exercises on transparency within the national CBIT project, which is at its final stage of approval with GEF.
- Cooperation with UNDP Kyrgyzstan expects to be fostering with the start of the BTR1 project (November-December 2024). UNEP and UNDP signed an agreement to assign UNDP Kyrgyzstan as an implementing agency for the BTR1 project in Kyrgyzstan.

c. UNDP Armenia (national CBIT project)

- UNDP Armenia covered the travel costs of additional two national experts to attend the regional **in-person training on GHG Inventory Systems**, which was held on **23-25 of April 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia**.

- UNDP Armenia regularly contributed to the webinars and workshops on mitigation and adaptation, sharing its knowledge and practice on climate transparency and reporting.

d. UNDP Tajikistan and UNDP Turkmenistan

- Supported the organization of the trainings on-site for (a) IPCC software on energy in Tajikistan, (see point 1) and (b) Land classification and Land use in Turkmenistan (see point 2).

e. UNDP regional office (via Climate Promise)

- Regular update and coordination between CBIT-GSP and UNDP regional office was made to keep each party updated on activities held in the network countries.
- Coordination of works with the UNDP regional office was also prominent in elaborating the gender toolkit for climate transparency, which will be issued by the end of 2024.

7. Coordination with UNEP

- UNEP Turkmenistan** covered the costs of an additional participant to attend the regional in-person **training on GHG Inventory Systems**, which was held on **23-25 of April 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia**.
- UNEP Azerbaijan** covered the costs of two additional participants to attend the regional in-person **training on GHG Inventory Systems**, which was held on **23-25 of April 2024 in Tbilisi, Georgia**.
- UNEP Uzbekistan** covered the organizational costs of the **in-country training on GACMO modeling**, which was held on **9-11 of July 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
- Coordination meetings were held with UNEP** to facilitate a dialogue with network countries – Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan – in their efforts to develop and submit first BTR by the end of 2024, identify the needs they have and provide technical support for addressing these needs.

Annual Post-Training Survey

This section presents the outputs and results of the post-training survey conducted in October-November 2024. A total of **21 responses were received from participants in Central Asia and the Caucasus**. According to the survey, the respondents attended the following trainings and events organized by CBIT-GSP in 2024:

1. In-person training on GHG Inventory (Georgia, Tbilisi)
2. Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) for Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan
3. Mutual Learning Programme (MLP) for Armenia and Kazakhstan
4. Technical webinar on adaptation reporting
5. In-person training on Adaptation Reporting
6. In-person training on LEAP modeling
7. In-person training on GACMO modeling for Uzbekistan
8. In-person training on IPCC Software tool for Energy Sector for Tajikistan
9. In-person training on Land Use Classification for Turkmenistan

Most of the responses (47.6%) came from participants who attended the in-person training on adaptation reporting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. On average, participants attended at **least 2.5 events on various climate transparency topics** this year. The majority (76.2%) of respondents participated in **regional in-person trainings**, while 61.9% took part in **webinars and virtual learning sessions**, and 47.6% attended **in-country training sessions** (Fig. 6).

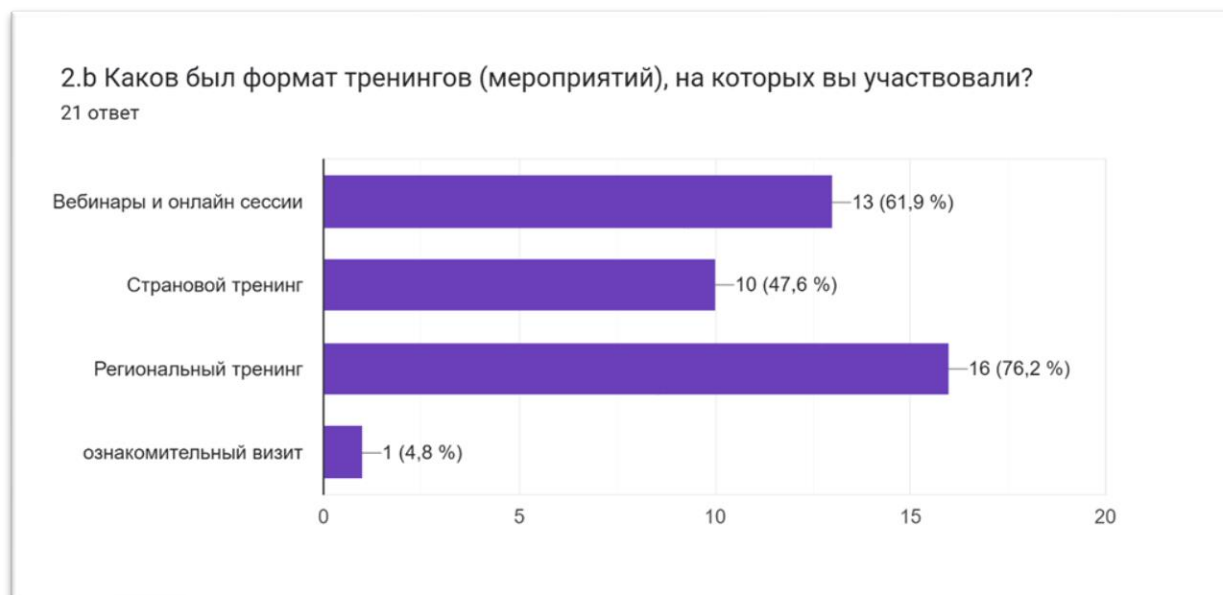


Figure 6. Type of training and events

Adaptation and GHG Inventory topics were identified as the primary learning topics of the trainings, with each topic receiving 52.4% of the responses. This can be attributed to the multi-country representation at the regional events and the participation of the same individuals in both the adaptation and GHG inventory thematic sessions. In

contrast, the **cross-cutting topic** of the events received the least responses (14.3%) from participants who had attended those sessions.

The trainings were deemed to have contributed significantly to improving and strengthening MRV/transparency, with 47.6% of respondents rating the impact as “**very significant**” and another 47.6% as “**significant**”. Only 1% rated the contribution as “**moderately significant**”. This highlights that the trainings and events organized for members of Central Asia and the Caucasus in 2024 were highly effective in enhancing capacities on climate transparency (Fig. 7).



Figure 7. Contribution of training and events into capacity building for transparency and MRV

The trainings and events primarily improved and strengthened participants' MRV/transparency activities by **enhancing their understanding of MRV/transparency processes** (71.4%), *improving the accuracy of data reporting* (61.9%), *strengthening knowledge sharing and collaboration with other network members* (61.9%), and *increasing the clarity of MRV/transparency processes* (61.9%). However, the trainings **had less impact** on improving the **efficiency of data collection and analysis** (42.9%), likely because establishing and operationalizing domestic institutional arrangements requires more time and efforts.

Among the respondents, 61.9% stated that participating in the trainings **significantly** contributed to their professional development in MRV/transparency activities, while 33.3% indicated a **moderate** contribution (Fig. 8).

5.a В какой степени ваше участие в тренинге (мероприятии) внесло вклад в ваше профессиональное развитие по темам MRV/прозрачности?

21 ответ

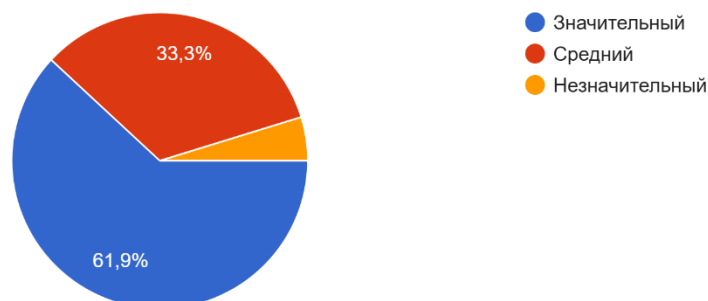


Figure 8. Role of training and events for professional development

The respondents were nearly evenly split in their assessment of the training satisfaction levels in 2024. Specifically, **52.4%** reported being **very satisfied**, while **47.6%** were **satisfied**, with no other options selected. Additionally, **81%** of respondents indicated that they **had applied** the knowledge and skills gained during the trainings or other guidance to the preparation of national reporting documents, while 19% had not yet had the opportunity to do so. Among those who applied their learnings, the primary climate reports they contributed to included: the **first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR)**, accounting for **66.7% of responses**, followed by the **National GHG Inventory Report (NIR)** and **National Communication (NC)**, each receiving **28.6% of responses**.

The trainings and guidance provided were rated as **very effective by 52.4%** of respondents, who reported *enhanced capabilities in preparing BTRs and NCs*.

7. Как вы оцените эффективность тренинга (мероприятия) и объяснение материала в усилении вашей способности готовить Нац. Сообщения и/или BTR?

21 ответ

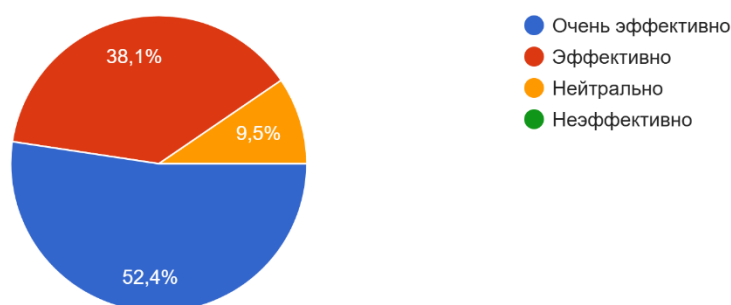


Figure 9. Effectiveness of the training and events

Additionally, **38.1% found them effective**, while **9.5% provided a neutral response**. The neutral answers appear to reflect participants who have not yet been involved in climate reporting (Fig. 9).

After completing the trainings, the majority of respondents (61.9%) used the Climate Transparency Platform to access news on activities and events, materials, and other knowledge products, while 38.1% did not.

The respondents suggested that the main areas of trainings and capacity building events, which need to be in focus for 2025 should be the following:

1. GHG Inventory:
 - a. Energy Sector: Basics for energy balance compilation and reference approach
 - b. Approach and methodologies on collecting the data for activities to adequately estimate fluorocarbon and sulfur hexafluoride emissions
 - c. Consultation on TER comments received for NIR in the context of 1BTR
2. NDC tracking and mitigation:
 - a. Impact assessment of policies and measures on mitigation
 - b. LEAP Modeling
 - c. GHG Emission Projections
 - d. Consultation on TER comments received for NDC tracking chapter in the context of 1BTR
3. Adaptation
 - a. M&E tools and systems for adaptation tracking
 - b. Loss and damage reporting
 - c. Assessment of the effectiveness of applied adaptation measures
 - d. Reporting on loss and damage
4. Climate Finance
 - a. Access to climate finance
 - b. Reporting on climate finance
 - c. Consultation on TER comments received for NDC tracking chapter in the context of 1BTR
5. Methane initiatives – basic concept, linkage between policies and mitigation measures, and GHG inventory.
6. Use of ETF tool
7. Use of IPCC Software
8. Gender sensitive development of BTR/NC and key MPG requirements

Additionally, respondents highlighted that involving statisticians and civil society representatives in the trainings will be crucial in 2025. Focusing on the practical aspects of the trainings through the exchange of multi-country knowledge and experience will also be beneficial.

Country Report Status

Table 2: Country Report Status

Country	BTR Status	NDC Status	NC Status	BUR Status
Armenia		NDC 2.0.	Latest 4 th NC	Latest 4 th BUR
Azerbaijan	BTR1, Submitted, 21/11/2024	NDC 2.0.	Latest 4 th NC	Latest 3 rd BUR
Kazakhstan	BTR1, Submitted, 09/11/2024	NDC 2.0.	Latest 8 th NC	Latest 4 th BR
Kyrgyzstan		NDC 2.0.	Latest 4 th NC	Latest 1 st BUR
Tajikistan	BTR 1, Submitted, 27/12/2024	NDC 2.0.	Latest 4 th NC	Latest 1 st BUR
Turkmenistan		NDC 2.0.	Latest 3 rd NC	
Uzbekistan	BTR 1, Submitted, 01/01/2025	NDC 2.0.	Latest 4 th NC	Latest 1 st BUR

Lessons Learned

All support activities for the network of Central Asia and the Caucasus which weren't planned for 2024 have been implemented, and therefore, no activities have been postponed for 2025. The success in delivering on all aspects of the 2024 work plan was assured by:

- **Practicality of the training** and ability to use domestic data for CRT and CTF tables.
- **Mentoring and high level of knowledge of CBIT-GSP experts**, including UNEP-CCC, IGES and FAO.
- **Live interaction and exchange of experience** among the network countries on best practices and lessons learned on ETF matters.
- **Communication in Russian** to leverage the in-country support and regional capacity building sessions.
- **Collaborative approach and complementarity** in delivering the CBIT-GSP activities with other support providers (IGES, ReCATH/CAREC and RECC, UNDP and UNEP).

Overall, the reflections on the implementation of the work plan emphasize that scheduling in-person training and workshops starting from the second quarter of the year is a preferred approach. This approach allows for better planning of agendas and coordination with hosting countries and partners in delivering events and activities, except for deferred support activities from the previous year. For example, the in-person training on IPCC Software for the Energy Sector in Tajikistan, initially planned for 2023, was delivered in January 2024.

Because of this, as the 2025 workplan is set it, it is noted that during the first quarter of the year, support activities will be conducted virtually through webinars, online meetings, and consultations.

Emerging needs and areas of technical support for 2025

In 2025, countries will require further support in **refining their GHG inventories**, with a focus on meeting *MPG requirements, completing CRTs*, and delving into specific sectors and categories such as *AFOLU, LULUCF, and Waste*. Additionally, **NDC tracking** and training on *reporting mitigation actions, policies, and measures*, including completing the *required CTF tables*, remain high priorities.

Given the importance of revising national policies and updating NDCs (NDC 3.0), countries will need support in linking **policy formulation** (NDC 3.0) with **transparent reporting** (BTRs). Practical training sessions and learning opportunities on **Article 6, including approaches to its reporting within BTRs**, have also been identified as key needs.

Since most network countries submitted their first BTR in 2024, there is a pressing need to **prepare them for the TER review** and **enhance their understanding** of potential issues that may arise during the process.

Capacity-building sessions on using specific tools for climate reporting, such as **IPCC Software** and the **UNFCCC tool**, were identified as important areas where network countries require further support.

The scope of work for 2025 will also extend to **M&E systems for adaptation reporting, Loss and Damage**, and tools and approaches for reporting on **support needed and received**.

Challenges and Opportunities

In 2024, participating countries faced several common challenges, including inconsistencies in data reliability, limited access to data, and difficulties in reporting on GHG inventories and mitigation actions. Other shared issues included weak institutional arrangements, poor coordination among governmental organizations, insufficient technical capacity of national experts to address new ETF and BTR requirements, and limited understanding of MPGs for key reporting areas.

Specific challenges were also noted, particularly regarding the organizational and operational initiation of BTR development in network countries. For instance, in Kyrgyzstan, a delayed request for GEF resources hindered the progress of BTR preparation. The project began only in late 2024, preventing the country from submitting its first BTR by the deadline of the 31st December 2024. Similarly, Armenia experienced institutional difficulties. A change in the national team responsible for developing its BTR, coupled with the shift of project management from UNDP to the National Hydrometeorological Service, delayed the hiring of staff and experts. As a result, Armenia was also unable to submit its first BTR before the end 2024.

Some anticipated challenges in 2025 are likely to mirror the common issues mentioned earlier. Additionally, increasing the number of regional in-person workshops and trainings on specific transparency topics may prove challenging. The ReCATH/CAREC project on transparency, a key partner in supporting CBIT-GSP efforts in Central Asia, finished in 2024. Furthermore, the continuation of joint support activities under the MLP in collaboration with IGES remains uncertain. While MLP activities with IGES were highly effective in 2023–2024, the Ministry of Environment of Japan (MOEJ) may reconsider funding allocations for 2025, citing the expectation that the first BTR development processes should have been completed by the end of 2024.

This underscores the need for CBIT-GSP to explore new opportunities for collaboration with other partners in the region. Potential partners include FAO, UNDP, and UNEP, which are implementing projects focused on enabling activities and national capacity-building initiatives for transparency in the region.