Central Asia and the Caucasus Rapid Assessment of Transparency Capacities | CBIT-GSP

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Introduction

This document presents the results of a capacity needs assessment conducted in November 2024 for the CBIT-GSP Regional Network for Central Asia and the Caucasus. The assessment aimed to rapidly evaluate the status of the network countries' transparency systems and capacities to meet the reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The regional network comprises seven countries: **Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan**.

An initial rapid assessment was conducted during 2022–2023, serving as a foundation to identify the needs and priorities for climate transparency. It also informed the design of tailored support activities for the network countries within the regional network under the CBIT-GSP project. Detailed information about these support activities can be found in the 2023 and 2024 Annual Progress Reports.

As the network countries are at varying stages of their transparency efforts—with some having already submitted their first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and others still preparing for submission—the current capacity needs assessment is critical. It supports a differentiated approach to designing activities tailored both for regional events and for country's specific transparency needs for 2025–2026.

Methodology and Approach

The methodology for the capacity needs assessment is based on three components:

1. **Survey for Rapid Assessment**: Conducted in November 2024, this survey evaluated capacities for transparency across key areas.

2. **Discussions with Country Teams**: In-depth consultations were held in November-December 2024 to gain additional insights and contextual understanding.

3. **Post-Training Survey Findings**: Conducted in October 2024, this survey assessed the effectiveness of the trainings delivered in 2024 and identified capacity needs for transparency for 2025.

All surveys and discussions were conducted in Russian to ensure effective communication and inclusivity.

The rapid assessment survey focused on all transparency areas related to Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) reporting and progress on the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR). It engaged country thematic experts specializing in **GHG Inventory**, **NDC Tracking and Mitigation**, **Adaptation**, **Climate Finance**, and **Gender**, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of capacities across the region.

In total, all seven country responses were received and analyzed. Most of the respondents were CBIT-GSP country focal points (6 out of 7) and included thematic experts on GHG Inventory (7 out of 7), NDC tracking and mitigation (6 out of 7), and adaptation (6 out of 7). However, there was limited representation among expert respondents specializing in Loss and Damage (3 out of 7) and Climate Finance (3 out of 7).

In addition to the surveys and post-training assessments, three virtual meetings were conducted with network countries that expressed interest in discussing their support needs for 2025. These countries included **Kazakhstan**, **Tajikistan**, and **Turkmenistan**. The remaining countries, despite being invited to participate in similar discussions, opted to identify their needs through the online survey questionnaire.

The main organizations and institutions which have taken part in survey and discussions included:

- Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
- Azerbaijan Branch of the Regional Environmental Centre for the Caucasus
- JSC "Zhasyl Damu" of the Republic of Kazakhstan and UNDP Kazakhstan
- Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Ministry of Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (SIC ICSD) and UNDP Turkmenistan
- Hydrometeorological Scientific Research Institute (HMSRI) of the Centre of Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Uzhydromet).

All the aforementioned organizations are governmental bodies or institutions designated by their respective national governments to manage transparency and climate reporting agendas within their countries.

Key findings of the capacity needs assessment

A. Current status of the country's first BTR

The current status of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) among the network countries varies. Two of the seven countries—Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan—have already submitted their BTRs. Three countries—Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—plan to submit their BTRs by December 31, 2024, while the remaining two countries, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, have indicated that they will submit their BTRs in 2025.

Figure 1. Current status of BTR in Central Asia and the Caucasus

According to the respondents, the main challenges preventing network countries from submitting their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) by December 31, 2024, were:

- **Institutional and organizational difficulties** (reported by 4 out of 7 countries).

- **Lack of domestic technical expertise, including team turnover** (reported by 4 out of 7 countries).

Additionally, two countries highlighted the following challenges:

- **Lack of data and limited access to data**.

- **Delays in securing GEF resources**, which hindered the timely development and submission of the transparency report.

A.1. NDC 3.0 and BTR

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 for the year 2025 should be developed with an implementation timeframe extending up to 2035. All Parties are required to submit their NDC 3.0 no later than February 2025 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the Compilation and Synthesis Report ahead of CMA7 (scheduled for November 2025).

NDCs 3.0 are expected to demonstrate a progression beyond previous submissions and embody the highest possible ambition in addressing climate change, as aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Given the priority

All seven countries (7 out of 7) indicated their intention to submit their **NDC 3.0** in 2025. Among them, five countries (5 out of 7) highlighted the need for **support in understanding the linkages between NDC 3.0 and BTR**. See Fig. 2.

Key areas of intervention identified include:

- **Exchange of experiences** among countries to share best practices and lessons learned.

- **Technical instructions or consultations** on using the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) for updating NDC 3.0.

These areas of support are considered essential to ensure a smooth and effective update of NDC 3.0 in alignment with transparency requirements.

Figure 2. Need in Technical Support for NDC 3.0 and BTR

A.2. ETF and overall assessment of capacities on transparency

The institutional arrangements (IA) in the countries of **Central Asia and the Caucasus** have been generally assessed as follows for various **Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)** categories:

- **Good**:
  - GHG Inventory
  - Adaptation
  - Mitigation and Emissions Projections
  - Support Needed and Received
- **Fair**:
  - NDC Tracking and Mitigation
- **Poor**:
  - Loss and Damage

These assessments highlight areas where institutional capacity is stronger, such as GHG inventory systems and adaptation processes, while also identifying critical gaps in tracking NDC implementation and addressing loss and damage. See Fig. 3.
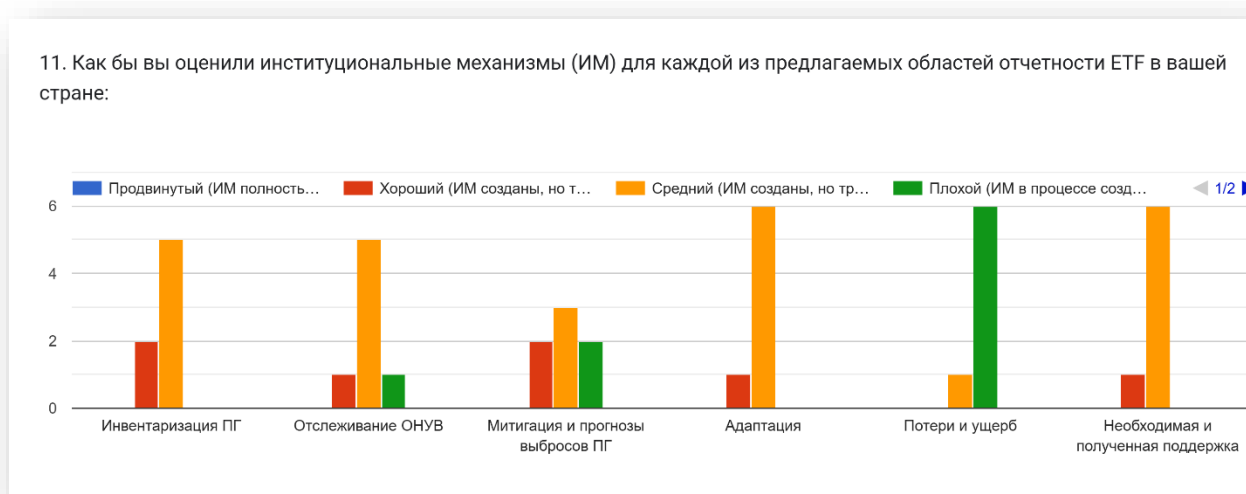

Figure 3. Assessment of Institutional Arrangements

The **technical domestic capacity** in the countries of **Central Asia and the Caucasus** has been assessed as follows:

- **Good**:
  - GHG Inventory
  - NDC Tracking
  - Adaptation

- Support Needed and Received
- **Fair** to **Poor**:
  - Mitigation and Emission Projections (almost evenly split between "fair" and "poor" assessments)
- **Poor**:
  - Loss and Damage (L&D)

The **"poor"** assessment for **Loss and Damage (L&D)** is primarily attributed to the **new reporting requirements**, the **complexity of the topic**, and the **lack of standardized methodologies** to effectively track climate-induced L&D. This underscores the need for capacity-building efforts and the development of tools and guidance to support countries in meeting these emerging requirements.
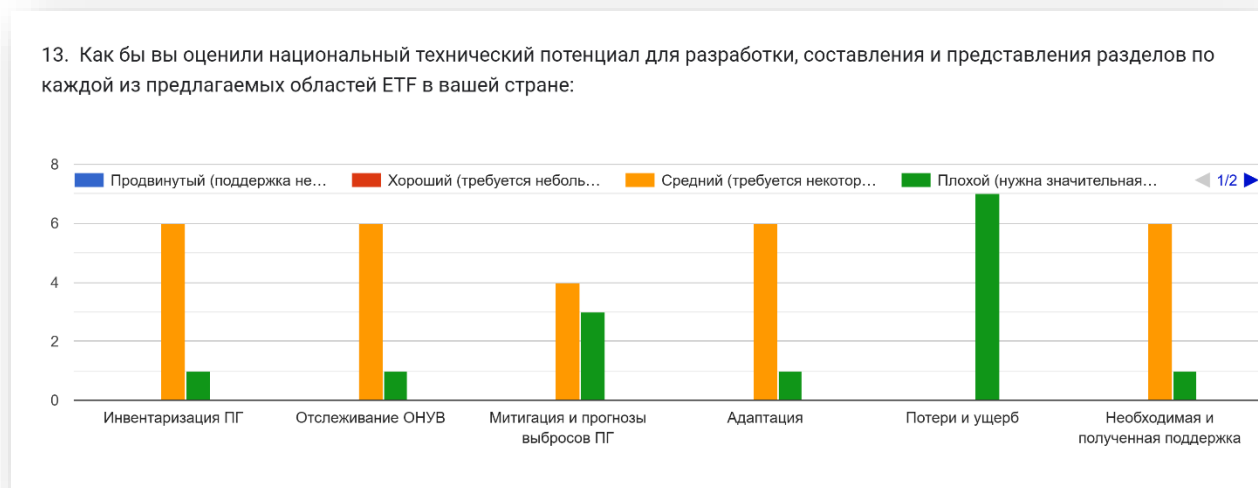

13. Как бы вы оценили национальный технический потенциал для разработки, составления и представления разделов по каждой из предлагаемых областей ETF в вашей стране:

Продвинутый (поддержка не…)   Хороший (требуется неболь…)   Средний (требуется некотор…)   Плохой (нужна значительная…)   ◀ 1/2 ▶

Figure 4. Assessment of technical domestic capacity

Despite varying levels of **institutional arrangements** and **technical domestic capacities**, all seven countries (7 out of 7) expressed a clear need for **technical support** across both aspects of transparency. They also showed strong interest in participating in **experience-sharing events** and **capacity-building sessions** to enhance their capabilities and fulfill reporting requirements effectively.

The assessment revealed that most countries in **Central Asia and the Caucasus** are either **"very familiar"** (2 out of 7) or **"familiar"** (5 out of 7) with the **MPG provisions** (Decision 18.CMA1) and the associated **reporting templates** (Decision 5.CMA3). However, all countries indicated they would still require **technical support** to effectively apply and use these provisions.

Regarding the **flexibility modalities** for reporting their first BTR, all countries except **Kazakhstan** reported plans to utilize these provisions. While **half of the countries** (4 out

of 7) expressed confidence in not needing further technical support on this aspect, the remaining **three countries** (3 out of 7) indicated the need for additional assistance.

B. Specific technical capacities related to the National Inventory Report (NIR)

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus identified several challenges in developing their **National Inventory Reports (NIRs)** under the first BTR. The most frequently cited difficulties included:

- **Filling in CRT tables** (6 out of 7).

- **Using IPCC software** for inventory development (5 out of 7).

- **Applying the ETF Reporting Tool** for UNFCCC reporting (5 out of 7).

These challenges were further elaborated in responses addressing the most difficult **MPG mandatory provisions** faced during NIR preparation (Fig. 5). The top priorities identified were:

- Use the **recommended method** (tier level) for key categories in accordance with IPCC guidelines (5 out of 7).

- Provide the **CRT, including its report using the ETF Reporting Tool** (5 out of 7).

- **Quantitatively estimate and qualitatively discuss** the uncertainty, including its report (4 out of 7).

- Elaborate and report an **inventory QA/QC plan** (4 out of 7).

- Implement general **inventory QC procedures**, including its report (4 out of 7).

- Report information on the reasons for **lack of completeness**, including information on any methodological or data gaps (4 out of 7).

- Estimate and report **HWP using production approach** (4 out of 7).

These findings highlight the need for targeted training and technical support in these key areas to enhance compliance and capacity for future NIR submissions.
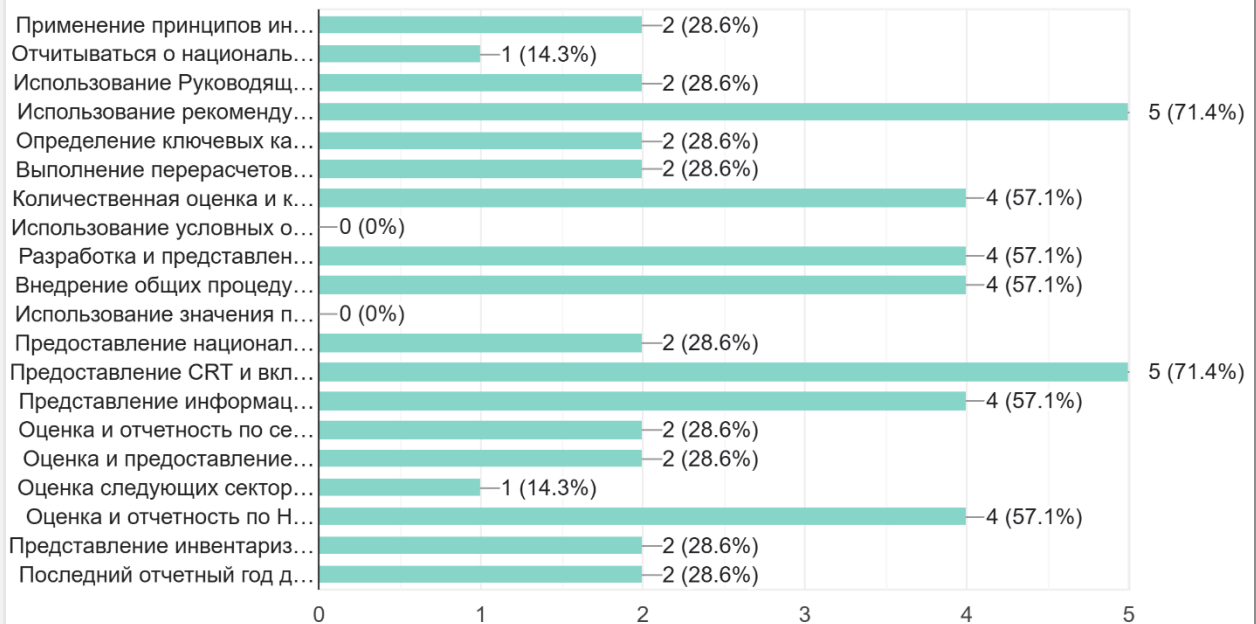
Figure 5. Challenges in MPG Mandatory Provisions for GHG Inventory (NIR)

All seven countries (7 out of 7) expressed a need for **technical support** in developing their **National Inventory Reports (NIRs)** in alignment with MPG requirements. The specific areas for capacity-building support identified, include:

- **Hands-on training** for refining the national GHG Inventory for selected sectors or categories (**Turkmenistan**).

- **Hands-on training** focused on refining the national GHG Inventory for the **Waste** sector and **LULUCF** (**Tajikistan**).

- **Technical quality review** of the **Waste Sector Chapter** (both textual content and CRTs) (**Kazakhstan**).

- **Technical guidance and instructions** for addressing TER comments received during the review of the GHG Inventory.

- Assistance with **filling in CRT tables**, reviewing them for compliance with MPG mandatory provisions, and using flexibility provisions as needed.

- Organizing **experience exchange events** and **webinars** on GHG Inventory development as part of the first BTR (**Kyrgyzstan**).

These priorities underscore the importance of targeted capacity-building initiatives tailored to the specific needs of each country.

C. Specific technical capacities related to NDC tracking and mitigation

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus identified several challenges in developing their **NDC tracking and mitigation chapter** under the first BTR. The most frequently cited difficulties included:

- **Filling in CTF tables** (7 out of 7).

- **Applying the ETF Reporting Tool** for UNFCCC reporting (5 out of 7).

- **Use of flexibility modality** (4 out of 7).

- **Compliance with MPGs** (4 out of 7).

These challenges were further elaborated in responses addressing the most difficult **MPG mandatory provisions** faced during preparation of NDC tracking and mitigation. The top priorities identified were:

- **Mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans**, including those with mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions and economic diversification plans, related to implementing and achieving a nationally determined contribution under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement (5 out of 7).

- Information necessary to **track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4** of the Paris Agreement (4 out of 7).

- **Projections of greenhouse gas emissions and removals**, as applicable (4 out of 7).

28. С какими трудностями при соблюдении обязательных положений MPG
сталкивается/стала ваша страна в ходе составления отчетности по ОНУВ?

7 responses

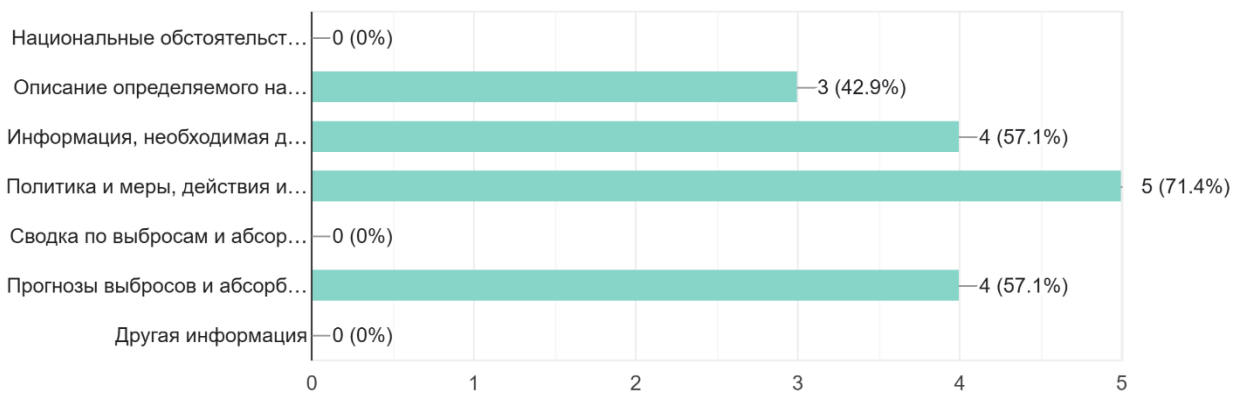|	
Национальные обстоятельст...	0 (0%)
Описание определяемого на...	3 (42.9%)
Информация, необходимая д...	4 (57.1%)
Политика и меры, действия и...	5 (71.4%)
Сводка по выбросам и абсор...	0 (0%)
Прогнозы выбросов и абсорб...	4 (57.1%)
Другая информация	0 (0%)

Figure 6. Challenges in MPG Provisions for NDC tracking and Mitigation

All seven countries (7 out of 7) expressed a need for **technical support** in developing their **NDC tracking and mitigation chapter** in alignment with MPG requirements. The specific areas for capacity-building support identified, include:

- Hands-on training on **NDC tracking, mitigation and CTF** (**Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan**).

- **GACMO modeling** training (**Turkmenistan**, 2026)

- **LEAP modeling** training (**Tajikistan**, 2025-26)

- Technical consultation and **review of CTF tables** and application of MPG provisions (**Azerbaijan**)

- **Exchange of experience** on NDC tracking and mitigation (**Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan**)

D. Specific technical capacities related to Adaptation

The status of adaptation reporting in the first Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) across the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus varies significantly:

- **Azerbaijan** and **Kazakhstan** have already submitted their first BTRs, including chapter on adaptation.

- **Tajikistan** and **Uzbekistan** plan to report on adaptation in their BTRs, which are due by **31 December 2024**.

- **Kyrgyzstan** and **Turkmenistan** do not intend to include adaptation in their first BTRs.

- **Armenia** has not yet initiated the adaptation reporting.

This variation underscores differing levels of progress and priorities in adaptation reporting within the region.

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus identified several challenges in **adaptation reporting** under the first BTR. The most frequently cited difficulties included:

- Identification of **indicators** for tracking adaptation (6 out of 7).

- **Tools and methodologies** to collect data and information on adaptation (6 out of 7)

- Reporting on **loss and damage** (6 out of 7)

- Identification of **mechanisms of tracking and reporting on adaptation** (5 out of 7)

Only one country, **Azerbaijan,** reported that including adaptation in their first Biennial Transparency Report (1BTR) was not complicated. Azerbaijan did not select any of the proposed options to highlight challenges, indicating a smoother process compared to other countries in the region.

The highlighted challenges were further elaborated in responses addressing the most difficult **MPG provisions** faced during preparation of adaptation reporting (Fig. 7). The top priorities identified were:

- Information related to **averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage** associated with climate change impacts (7 out of 7).

- Progress on **implementation of adaptation** (6 out of 7).

- **Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation** actions and processes (6 out of 7).

34. С какими трудностями при соблюдении положений MPG сталкивается ваша страна в ходе составления отчета по адаптации?

7 responses

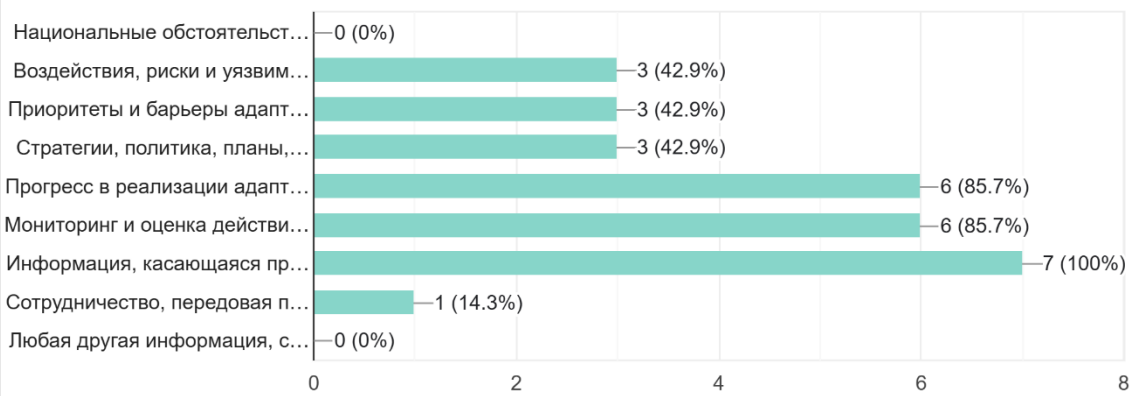| Category	Value
Национальные обстоятельст…	0 (0%)
Воздействия, риски и уязвим…	3 (42.9%)
Приоритеты и барьеры адапт…	3 (42.9%)
Стратегии, политика, планы,…	3 (42.9%)
Прогресс в реализации адапт…	6 (85.7%)
Мониторинг и оценка действи…	6 (85.7%)
Информация, касающаяся пр…	7 (100%)
Сотрудничество, передовая п…	1 (14.3%)
Любая другая информация, с…	0 (0%)

Figure 7. Challenges in MPG Provisions for Adaptation

All but one country, **Azerbaijan**, expressed their willingness to receive technical support on adaptation reporting. The proposed capacity-building sessions are primarily focused on the following aspects of adaptation reporting:

- Hands-on training and webinars on **adaptation reporting**, exchange of experience both within the network countries and Eurasia (Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

- Capacity-building sessions or exchange of experience webinars on establishing the **M&E systems and developing indicators for adaptation** (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan).

- Capacity-building sessions on **Loss and Damage**, including methodologies, tools and exchange of experience (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

E. Specific technical capacities related to Support Needed and Received

Both **Azerbaijan** and **Kazakhstan** have already reported on Support Needed and Received in their first BTR. **Turkmenistan** does not plan to report on this chapter in its BTR, while **Kyrgyzstan** has yet to start the process. **Armenia** is in the process of collecting data and information related to Support Needed and Received, and **Uzbekistan** and **Tajikistan** are planning to finalize this chapter as part of their BTRs by 31 December 2024.

The countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus identified several challenges in reporting on **Support Needed and Received** under the first BTR. The most frequently cited difficulties included:

- Lack of a unified domestic mechanism for compiling the data and information required for reporting on support needed and received (7 out of 7).

- Lack of data and information on finance, technology development/transfer and capacity-building (7 out of 7).

- Risk of double counting (6 out of 7).

The highlighted challenges were further elaborated in responses addressing the most difficult **MPG provisions** faced during reporting on Support Needed and Received (Fig. 8). The top priorities identified were:

- Information on **financial support needed** by developing country Parties under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement (7 out of 7).

- Information on **technology development and transfer support needed** by developing country Parties under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement (6 out of 7).

- Underlying **assumptions, definitions and methodologies** (5 out of 7).

- Information on **financial support received** by developing country Parties under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement (5 out of 7).

- Information on **capacity-building support needed** by developing country Parties under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement (5 out of 7).

- Information on **capacity-building support received** by developing country Parties under Article 11 of the Paris Agreement (5 out of 7).

All seven countries need technical support on compiling the information and reporting on Support Needed and Received under the BTR. Specific proposals for capacity building sessions, are:

- Exchange of experience webinars and events on **Support Needed and Received** (**All countries**).

- Events on demonstration of the **climate finance tracking systems** (**Kazakhstan, Tajikistan**).

- Quality **review of the Chapter** and **checking the CTF tables** (**Uzbekistan**).

- Development of **templates** for the country experts to collect data on support needed and received, to appropriately embed into CTF tables (**Turkmenistan**).

F. Gender mainstreaming

According to responses from the countries, gender considerations are included "to some extent" in the climate reports of five out of seven countries. Only two countries – **Armenia** and **Kazakhstan** – reported that their climate reports include gender considerations "to a greater extent" (Fig. 8).

43. Включает ли ваш последний климатический отчет (NC, BTR, NDC или Adaptation Communication) гендерные аспекты? Если да, то в какой степени?

7 responses

- В полной мере
- В большей степени
- В какой-то степени
- Слегка
- Нисколько

71.4%

28.6%

Figure 8. Gender Considerations in Climate Reports

All countries would be keen to receive technical support on gender considerations in climate reporting. The proposed capacity building sessions are:

- Exchange of experience webinars and sessions on **gender and climate change** (all countries).

- **Methods and tools** to integrate gender into Biennial Transparency Reports and National Communications (all countries).

Summary of needs for technical support in 2025

The main needs for support which the country have highlighted in the assessment are:

- **Refining the GHG Inventory** for selected sectors and categories is still a work to do in 2025. The use of *IPCC software*, alignment of the NID to *MPG mandatory requirements*, including the *QA/QC procedures*, application of appropriate *methodologies for GHG estimations* and use of *ETF tool* for proper reporting to the UNFCCC. The countries which have submitted their first BTR and those who plan

to do so before 2025, highlighted the need for support in capacity building on *Technical Expert Review (TER) for GHG Inventory*.

- **NDC tracking** is also a priority for capacity building needs in 2025. All reporting dimensions under the NDC tracking were assessed as important: *Policy and Measures*, tracking of *NDC progress and projections*. Most of the countries applied flexibility provisions on projections in their first BTR, and would like to acquire solid knowledge on this reporting aspect before submitting their second BTR. Similar to GHG Inventory, the countries expressed the need for support in capacity building on *Technical Expert Review (TER) for NDC tracking*.

- **Adaptation** was assessed as important for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan in particular, especially on addressing the MPG reporting requirements for adaptation. For all countries of the network, the topic for capacity building on *loss and damage* and *M&E system* for adaptation was prioritized in 2025.

- For **Support Needed and Received** the countries require exchange of experience and peer to peer learning on how to report on this BTR Chapter, including textual part and CTF tables. All countries would also like to get more practical knowledge on *tools and methodologies to track climate finance* and properly report on this as per ETF.

- The countries will further need technical support in **mainstreaming gender into transparent reporting**, namely through capacity building sessions and peer to peer learning on available tools and methodologies.

- The countries have also expressed their willingness to increase their knowledge on *Article 6 and its linkage with Article 13*. Given that the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus need to submit their updated NDC 3.0, they expressed their interest in *understanding the linkage between NDC 3.0 and BTR*.

A snapshot of the highlighted needs for support is outlined in the Summary Table 1 below.

In overall, the needs for technical support which have been identified in the current version of the capacity needs assessment for Central Asia and the Caucasus mirror those which were prioritized by the countries of the network in Annual Progress Report for 2024. More concrete activities to address these needs are proposed in the Annual Work Plan for 2025.

Please, follow the link to the AWP-2025 for Central Asia and the Caucasus here.

Table 1: Summary table of needs for technical support in Central Asia and the Caucasus

Transparency Needs	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	Turkmenistan	Uzbekistan
GHG Inventory							
Refining GHG Inventory in selected sectors and categories (Waste, LULUCF, AFOLU)				V	V	V	V
QA and QC Plan		V				V	
Filling in CRT tables		V	V	V			
Use of ETF tool	V		V	V		V	V
Use of IPCC software	V				V	V	V
TER Readiness for NID		V	V		V	V	V
NDC Tracking and Projections							
Filling in CTF tables	V		V	V	V	V	V
Use of ETF tool	V			V	V	V	V
PAM measures	V	V	V			V	V
NDC tracking progress	V		V	V		V	V
GHG emissions projections		V			V	V	
TER Readiness for NDC tracking and CTFs		V	V		V	V	V
Adaptation							
Overall reporting on Adaptation				V		V	
M&E system on adaptation and indicators	V		V	V	V	V	V
Loss and Damage	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Support Needed and Received							
Overall MPG requirements for Support Needed and Received		V	V	V	V	V	V
Tools and methods on climate finance tracking	V		V	V	V	V	
Filling in CTF tables for support needed/ received	V		V			V	V
Gender Aspects							
Methods and tools to mainstream gender into transparency and reporting	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Other							
Article 6 and its linkage to Article 13			V	V	V		V
Linkages between NDC 3.0 and BTR			V	V	V	V	V