

Accelerating BTR Preparation: Strengthening Climate Transparency in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Background

The Paris Agreement established the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) to promote clarity and understanding of climate action and support. The operationalisation of the ETF is guided by the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) and corresponding common reporting tables, common tabular formats and outlines. The 3 core components of the ETF are reporting through the biennial transparency report (BTR), technical expert review (TER) and facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress (FMCP).

Countries that are Parties to the Paris Agreement are expected to submit their first BTR by 31 December 2024 and every two years thereafter. However, owing to their special circumstances, least developed countries and small island developing States can submit this report at their discretion. The process to prepare a BTR and products stemming from it will:

- Enable countries to build a stronger evidence base to identify needs and set priorities on how to strengthen climate policies over time,
- Send donors and investors a clear signal about the scale of opportunity, as well as needs,
- Provide a better assessment of collective global progress on climate action, and where more action and support are needed, and
- Include greenhouse gas inventories and information on tracking progress towards achieving NDCs, helping to build trust and enabling countries to prepare for the next round of NDCs, due in 2025.

In a nutshell, the process of the preparation of BTR can be a vital enabling tool for all governments as it can provide crucial data to help make informed decisions, design stronger climate policies over time, attract climate finance and achieve broader development goals. In line with UNFCCC guidelines for streamlined reporting, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will be preparing a combined report that integrates both the First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and the Third National Communication (TNC) to ensure consistency and reduce duplication.

Upon request of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Sustainable Development Unit (SDU), the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency-Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) agreed to provide technical support to the national team of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to prepare for its first Biennial Transparency Report. This note outlines the scope and timeline of the requested technical support. The technical support and work of the national team will build on and take into account the following ongoing and planned activities.

Objective

The technical support will aim to fast-track the preparation of the Reports of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by developing the capacity of and assisting the national team, key stakeholders, and data providers through different stages of preparation.

Components of support

The technical support will include 2 stages:

1. Stage 1 - In-person engagement in the form of a three-day workshop in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The main objective of the workshop will be to engage in interactive exercises to promote learning of concepts of the MPGs as they relate to preparing Biennial Update Reports. The exercises will be designed in a manner that results in stock-taking of existing processes and data in the country that can be used as a basis to build on for the BTR work. The workshop will be held from **21 to 24 July 2025**.
2. Stage 2 - Mentoring phase: It is expected that the consulting team will be deployed to gather and prepare necessary data and information based on the roadmap developed in Stage 1. Depending on the need, the mentoring sessions will include a combination of periodic in-country visits by an external expert and virtual meetings with external experts whereby the external expert(s) provide hands-on advice and technical input to the national team. The exact timing of the mentoring sessions will be decided at a later stage, depending on the progress of the work of the national team in preparing the BTR.

Programme of the in-person workshop

Time	Day 1 – July 21, 2025 [Focus: General overview, Tracking progress of NDC]	
09:00 – 11:00	Media Launch of BTR1/TNC Project	SDU
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:30	Overview Session: Introduction to BTR1/TNC Project and expectations for the week	SDU
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 - 14:30	Climate Change Architecture Key processes of the UNFCCC	RCC Caribbean
14:30 – 13:00	Reflection on the exercises and open discussions End of Day 1	All

Time	Day 2 – July 22, 2025 [Focus: General overview, Tracking progress of NDC]	Presenter/ Facilitator
09:00 – 9:15	Arrival & Registrations	SDU
09:15 – 9:45	Welcome and Energiser Group Photo	
09:45 – 10:00	Getting to know each other: Workshop Objectives and housekeeping rules Introduction of Participants	CBIT-GSP
10:00 – 10:30	ETF Reporting Provisions Overview: (i) Overview of key reporting provisions, timelines, snapshot of BTR submissions, Differences and similarities between BTR and National Communications (ii) BTR outline, Common Reporting Tables and Common Tabular Formats, ETF reporting tools. Q&A session	CBIT-GSP
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 11:30	Overview of Tracking progress of implementation and achievement of NDCs Reporting requirements: in-depth presentation of commonalities and differences between the NCs and BUR requirements and the BTR requirements; stock-take of existing data/information and mapping with the BTR requirements taking into account the flexibility provisions and identifying alternative data sources and proxy data, as well as gaps and needs. Focus: Institutional Arrangements, and Flexibilities	RCC Caribbean CBIT-GSP
11:30 – 12:30	Interlinkage between the BTR and NDC 3.0 Focus: NDC tracking of progress in the BTR and how it relates to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines plans to update their NDC	RCC Caribbean
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 13:40	Energiser	
13:40 – 14:20	Tools and Software for Reporting NDC Tracking • Information on UNFCCC ETF Reporting Tool Group (Common Tabular Formats) • Demo & Q&A	CBIT-GSP
14:20 – 15:00	Reflection on the exercises and open discussions End of Day 2	All
Time	Day 3 – 24 July 2025 [Focus: GHG inventory]	
09:00 - 09:15	Recap and Energiser	

09:15 – 09:30	National Plans for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' National GHG Inventory Report Existing national arrangements, reflections on the NIR process and previous country experience, and plans for the NIR for BTR1/TNC	SDU
09:30 – 11:00	National GHG inventory report preparation Reporting requirements: in-depth presentation of commonalities and differences between the NCs requirements and the BTR requirements; stock-take of existing data and mapping with the BTR requirements taking into account the flexibility provisions and identifying alternative data sources and proxy data, as well as gaps and needs. Focus: Energy sector	CBIT-GSP
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:00	Continue with the session Focus: Waste & IPPU sector	CBIT-GSP
12:00 – 13:00	Continue with the session Focus: AFOLU sector	CBIT-GSP
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:10	Energiser	
14:10 – 14:30	Continue with the session Focus: Crosscutting Areas (KCA, Timeseries, QAQC, Uncertainty)	CBIT-GSP
14:30 – 14:50	National Inventory Report Template NIRs are a mandatory requirement of the BTR, and implies a considerable increase in the amount, detail and accuracy of information to be submitted on national GHG inventories, especially for developing countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session will introduce the CBIT-GSP standardised NID template to streamline inventory documentation and improve consistency across national reports. 	CBIT-GSP
14:50 – 15:20	Tools and Software for Reporting NIR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the tools and software available for facilitating reporting. • Live demo of the IPCC Inventory software tool • Information on UNFCCC ETF Reporting Tool Group Common Reporting Tables 	CBIT-GSP
15:20 – 15:30	Reflection on the exercises and open discussions End of Day 3	CBIT-GSP and SDU
Time	Day 4 – 24 July 2025 [Focus: Finance, Technology Capacity Building & Adaptation)	

09:00 - 09:15	Recap and Energiser	
09:15 – 10:30	Overview of Reporting Requirements: (1) Financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support	CBIT-GSP/RCC Caribbean
10:30– 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 11:30	Overview of Reporting Requirements: (2) Reporting information on climate change impacts and adaptation.	CBIT-GSP/RCC Caribbean
11:30 – 12:00	Reflections on sessions & Next Steps for BTR1/TNC Mentimeter feedback survey Closing remarks	SDU and CBIT GSP
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 - 14:00	Meeting of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Climate Change	SDU