

FAO CBIT-AFOLU Project Summary report on 2020 activities

The challenges posed by the current global pandemic are not stopping countries from raising the ambition and efforts of their climate actions. Although some important milestones have been postponed, countries continue working towards the new round of submissions of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), with a focus on including climate action in their COVID-19 recovery plans. The importance of tools for capturing their efforts is crucial. Appropriate tools will allow for evidence-based decisions in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector.

Under the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), FAO's CBIT-AFOLU project supports 13 pilot countries' efforts to meet the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). Despite the challenges encountered this year, the work under the FAO CBIT-AFOLU project progressed and found alternative ways to respond to the needs of its pilot countries.

During the first half of 2020, country representatives participated in a **multi-level survey** to help identify the main gaps in their countries' institutional arrangements (IA), Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) systems. The survey was designed to assess which areas needed the most support, and which tools were most used. Based on the results of the survey and on countries' preferences, national correspondents were involved in the **development of country-specific work plans** to guide current and future work.

As project activities unroll, countries are being asked to **review and provide feedback on transparency-enhanced tools**, while raising their capacity to fulfil their reporting obligations. In 2020, significant progress was made on **enhancing tools** such as the US EPA [Revised Institutional Arrangements template](#), the e-learning course "[Preparing a greenhouse gas inventory under the Enhanced Transparency Framework](#)", the [Monitoring and Evaluation \(M&E\) training package](#), and the Biennial transparency report (BTR) guidance and roadmap tool which is being finalized in collaboration with the Partnership on Transparency of the Paris Agreement (PATPA). A dedicated [Tools and Resources](#) webpage has been set up to provide a "one-stop-shop" for transparency practitioners.

The FAO CBIT-AFOLU project provides tailored support through **direct assistance** and specific trainings based on countries' requests. The key is to focus on well-defined technical aspects and to streamline efforts to improve outcomes from capacity building actions. Under the [Building and strengthening Madagascar's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Agreement](#) implemented by Conservation International, through weekly calls FAO guided national experts working to enhance the GHG inventory towards the application of the Tier 2. In Argentina, under the Initiative for Climate Action

FAO AND THE ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK



Transparency (ICAT) activities, FAO joined forces with the Italian Institute for the Protection and Research of Environment (ISPRA) to enhance the GHG estimation and reporting process in the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector. This included in-depth discussions with national experts on pressing questions; and on how to overcome challenges.

Support to countries is also provided in the form of technical webinars, with preferential access for countries that are part of the FAO CBIT-AFOLU programme. In the period October – December 2020, the FAO transparency team launched the [ETF webinar series](#), covering the most critical topics in implementing the ETF through its modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs). The introductory session took place on October 8th 2020 and presented the main gaps and needs in [addressing transparency in the agriculture and land use sectors](#). It was followed by a session on [Institutional Arrangements](#) and one on the **Quality Assurance** of the national GHG inventory management system and national GHG inventories. The webinar series will continue in January 2021, with a training session that will be centred on Section II: “National inventory report of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases” of the MPGs. In particular, the webinar will delve into the differences between the current MRV system and the new ETF framework.

Last but not least, in October 2020, FAO launched the [Transparency in agriculture and land use sectors Network](#), a group of experts and practitioners sharing their knowledge and experiences, and using the network to highlight capacity needs and gaps in addressing transparency in the AFOLU sector. Membership is open to everyone, and it already has more than 200 members. Besides providing news on tools and training webinars, the network provides access to an **email-based discussion group**, where members can participate in discussion on relevant topics, ask questions to FAO and other Organizations’ experts, and learn from other members’ experiences and knowledge. The network also has an online **roster of transparency practitioners**, to increase visibility and make it easier to connect with other practitioners. Finally, a **dedicated LinkedIn group** promotes information sharing, networking and direct connection among the members. In 2021 the Network will have all its functionalities in place and serve the transparency community according to its members’ needs.

All the information about ongoing and upcoming activities under the FAO CBIT-AFOLU project can be found in the [FAO Enhanced Transparency Framework webpage](#).