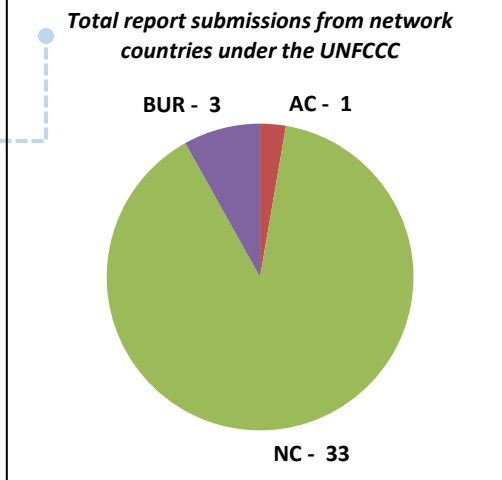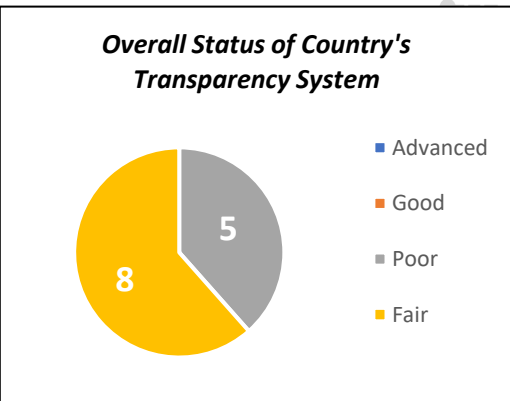# Initial Assessment of Transparency Capacities for the Pacific

The **Initial Assessment** was developed applying an-online survey during December 2022, where 12 of 14 countries responded (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu)

Countries in the Pacific region are not very advanced regarding the reporting to the UNFCCC. Since 1999, the 14 pacific island countries have submitted less reports than the required amount. There are Thirty-seven reports submitted to the UNFCCC from the Pacific Region. Thirty-three are National Communications, three Biennial Update reports and one Adaptation Communications.

Countries in the pacific region have now started more south-south cooperation networks to share expertise gained and good practices. However, important gaps and constraints remain, including *a high turnover of national experts*, *a lack of data and adequate institutional arrangements*.

Total report submissions from network countries under the UNFCCC

BUR - 3   AC - 1

NC - 33

Overall Status of Country's Transparency System

- ■ Advanced
- ■ Good
- ■ Poor
- ■ Fair

5
8

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 whereas five indicated it to be poor and none of the countries selected good and advanced
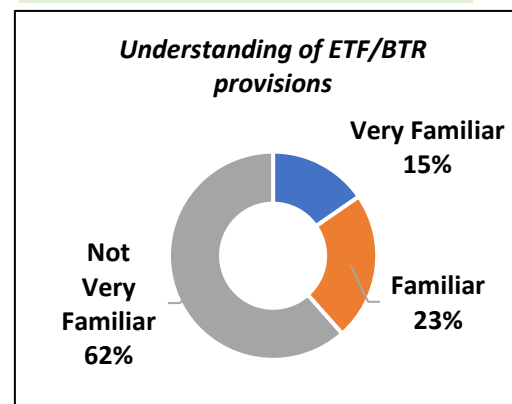
It is important to highlight that *most countries use the outcomes of their transparency systems for national policy-making* such as the development of their NDC and mitigation/adaptation plans.

Countries have received transparency support from various organizations, In the context of GEF Enabling Activities and CBIT projects, as well as other capacity-building support. Strongly aligned with this, most countries highlighted that they are willing to engage in peer-to-peer learning, particularly on *institutional arrangements for transparency.* Countries also mentioned that consistent conversations with international partners to successful deliver the support is very much needed.

Most countries wish to learn mainly about:
- **Institutional arrangement for transparency**
- **NDC tracking**
- **MRV of mitigation actions**
- **Greenhouse Gas inventory systems**
- **Support needed and received tracking**
- **MPGs requirement/provisions**
- **GHG projections**
- **Vulnerability and adaptation measures**

Implementing the ETF and preparation for the BTR

Level of familiarity with ETF/BTR provisions

Understanding of ETF/BTR provisions

Very Familiar 15%

Not Very Familiar 62%

Familiar 23%

Most countries indicated that they are not very familiar with the ETF/BTR provisions. *Thus, the CBIT GSP will be hosting a in person workshop on ETF/MPGs will build those capacities*. Also, for five countries Funding has been requested from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the preparation of the first BTR also two countries mentioned they have developed a BTR submission roadmap and six have not taken any steps to access funding.
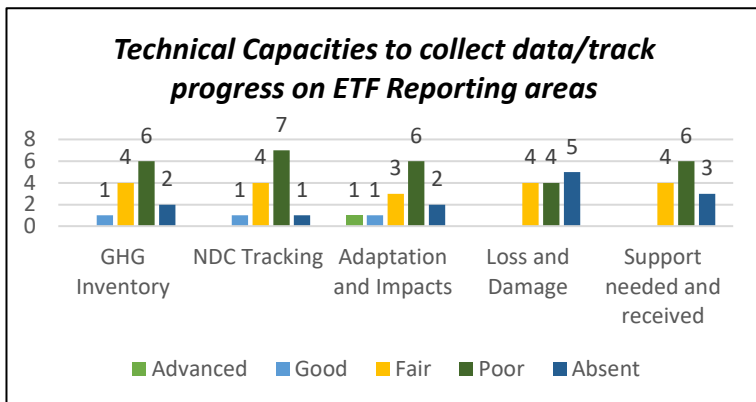
Therefore, challenges remain due to *limited human and financial resources* as well as a *lack of robust data sets.*

Potential solutions for those challenges are:
- Legislate Institutional arrangements
- Secure targeted support for climate finance access
- Exchange of good practices and lessons learned
- Exchange of experiences on climate finance access
- Regular capacity building opportunities
- Climate change awareness

Initial Assessment of Transparency Capacities for the Pacific Region

Technical capacities in each of the ETF reporting areas. Several countries assessed their technical capacities as either *fair* in all the four areas, only one country assessed it as *advanced* in the Adaptation and Impacts area. In fact, all four ETF areas see *absent* technical capacities by some countries, whereby losses and damages and support needed and received see most *absent* technical capacities.

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

Legend: ■ Advanced ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor ■ Absent

Overall, most countries assessed their technical capacities as *poor* in the areas of NDC tracking, adaptation and impacts, losses and damages as well as support needed and received.

GHG inventory, all countries are using **the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.** However, regarding the use of software for inventory preparation most countries do not use the IPCC Inventory Software. Similarly, most countries indicated that they do not have an operational QA/QC procedures in place.

NDC tracking and mitigation, countries are using GACMO and LEAP modelling tools; however, many countries have *not used* any tool yet. Most countries have *not identified* indicators for NDC tracking, which will be an important area to be covered through national actions.

Adaptation and impacts, countries are using remote sensing platforms, integrated vulnerability assessment, and laser level coastal profiling. While many countries in the regions have *not developed or are in progress of developing* a NAP, most countries *have established or are in the progress od establishing a* domestic M&E systems, indicating another key gap to be addressed. Importantly, most countries *have not assessed* losses and damage, indicating that this region the lack of capacity in the region.

Support needed and received, most countries *are tracking* or *partially tracking* their climate finance received and/or estimating their support needs.

Countries' most pressing transparency support or training needs

Based on countries' responses, the following regional and national actions will be provided :

Capacity building actions for transparency at the regional level in 2023.

- Webinar - Support in BTR development: Requirements for BTR and BTR funding opportunities.
- Training on support needed and support received: reporting requirements and best practices in tracking climate finance in the region.
- Regional Workshop on ETF and MPGs
- Introduction to the new CBIT-GSP integrated platform and the dedicated network space.
- Regional networks exchange activity through Webinar on Institutional arrangements for transparency systems, including lessons learned and best practices.

- Introduction to the updated gender toolkit.

Capacity building actions for transparency at the National level in 2023.

➢ Hands-on training on recommended modelling tools for projecting GHG emissions.
➢ In-person training on the GHG Inventory (including 2006 IPCC Guidelines)
➢ In country training on NDC Tracking including tools and indicators.
➢ Assessment and recommendations of institutional arrangements for transparency.
➢ Peer review for climate change reporting and documentation.

In addition, *institutional arrangements for transparency* have been identified as the most relevant *cross-cutting issue* related to all ETF reporting areas.