GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND:Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: Project Information

Project Title:	Capacity Building for Improved Transparency on Climate Actions through an Environment Registry in Antigua & Barbuda		
Country(ies):	Antigua and Barbuda	GEF Project ID:[1]	9849
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01586
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Environment	Resubmission Date:	March 7, 2018
GEF Focal Area(s):	Climate Change	Project Duration (Months)	36
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities ☐ IAP-Commodities ☐ IAP-Food Security ☐	Corporate Program: SGP ☐	
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee ($)	95,000

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES[2]

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
		GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
CBIT	CBIT	1,000,000	200,000
Total Project Cost		**1,000,000**	**200,000**

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To promote mainstreaming of NDC monitoring, reporting and verification into domestic systems and strengthen institutional capacity to enable routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes that enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement

Project Components	**Financing Type[3]**	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**	**Trust Fund**	**(in $)**	
					GEF Project Financing	**Co-financing**
1. National Registry to support monitoring of NDC implementation and tracking climate change impact	TA	1.1 The Environment Registry MRV function is established through a participatory process that includes a resilience assessment	1.1.1 Regulations, procedures and guidelines for monitoring, reporting and verifying climate change data are developed 1.1.2 Environment Registry is accessible to the public to promote accountability and transparency 1.1.3 Data security and climate resilient assessment for the Environment Registry is conducted	CBIT	650,000	100,000

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.
[2] When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF and CBIT guidelines.
[3] Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			1.1.4 Country-specific indicators in line with Nationally Determined Contribution targets are developed			
2. Institutionalization of the national transparency framework across sectors	TA	2.1 The Environment Registry becomes the official national source for NDC monitoring, reporting and verification	2.1.1 Training to government agencies, private sector, and civil society is provided in order to appropriately and efficiently contribute data to the Environment Registry 2.1.2 Evaluation, learning and scaling up of the transparency initiative are conducted		260,000	50,000
				Subtotal	910,000	150,000
				Project Management Cost (PMC)[4]	CBIT	90,000	50,000
				Total Project Cost	CBIT	1,000,000	200,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ( )

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Health and Environment	In-kind	200,000
Total Co-financing			200,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS a)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in $)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)b)	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	CBIT	Antigua and Barbuda	Climate Change		1,000,000	95,000	1,095,000
Total GEF Resources					1,000,000	95,000	1,095,000

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)[5]

[4] For GEF Project Financing up to $2 million, PMC could be up to10% of the subtotal; above $2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

[5] PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to $50k for PF up to$2m (for MSP); up to $100k for PF up to $3m; $150k for PF up to $6m; $200k for PF up to $10m; and $300k for PF above $10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: $50,000					PPG Agency Fee: $4,750		
GEF Agency	**Trust Fund**	**Country/ Regional/Global**	**Focal Area**	**Programming of Funds**	**(in $)**		
					PPG (a)	**Agency Fee**[6] (b)	**Total** c = a + b
UNEP	CBIT	Antigua & Barbuda	Climate Change		50,000	4,750	54,750
Total PPG Amount					**50,000**	**4,750**	**54,750**

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS[7]

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	**Replenishment Targets**	**Project Targets**
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	*Hectares*
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	*Hectares*
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	*Number of freshwater basins*
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	*Percent of fisheries, by volume*
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO_{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	*metric tons*
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	*metric tons*
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	*metric tons*
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	*ODP tons*
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries:*
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	*Number of Countries: 1*

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area[8] strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

[6] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

[7] Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the *GEF-6 Programming Directions*, will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF, SCCF or CBIT.

[8] For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

1. The global environmental, mitigation and adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Antigua and Barbuda is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Eastern Caribbean. The country, like the global community, has recognized the urgency in tackling climate change. For this reason, the country has demonstrated its commitment to "hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing significant efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks of impacts" as stated in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. Antigua and Barbuda ratified the Paris Agreement on 21 September 2016. Together with its instrument of ratification, the country has submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)[9].

In line with Article 13 of the Paris Agreement – the establishment of an enhanced transparency framework with the objective to build mutual trust and confidence and promote the effective implementation of actions – Antigua and Barbuda is now on a path towards strengthening its monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to assess the impact of climate change actions, and to track the implementation towards achieving NDC goals and increasing ambition over time.

Unfortunately, as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda is challenged in doing so due to its small size and thus high per capita costs, and limited human, technical, and infrastructural resources to dedicate to the process of technological investments, data collection and data management systems. These challenges result in: dispersed and not well-documented existing data and information, lack of integrity and security in data management systems, lack of technical capacity and awareness of the availability and importance of data and information, limited financial resources, and exposure to climate change impacts that can destroy technology and result in loss of expensive data and Information Technology (IT) systems, negatively impacting incentives to invest in expensive data systems. These challenges present a barrier to the country's reporting and transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.

The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)[10] for Antigua and Barbuda, conducted with support from GEF-3, although dated, identified the following barriers:

- Lack of integrated policy frameworks for sustainable development
- Limited human resource capability
- Inadequate funding
- Limited public awareness and support
- Emphasis on vertical communications and information flows

Since the Self-Assessment was published, advances have been made in the policy and legal environment, however challenges persist with implementation – which requires financial support, technological investment and adequate human resources, particularly with respect to vulnerable youth, women, men, the elderly, differently-abled persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda in 2015 enacted comprehensive environmental legislation, the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2015), which established the groundwork for an Integrated Environmental Information System.

Antigua and Barbuda's enabling legal and policy framework for MRV under the Paris Agreement

In Antigua and Barbuda, climate change is addressed as one element of a larger national environment framework. This is an appropriate approach for a small island developing state, where institutional arrangements must be streamlined to account for its small population size (less than 100,000 people). A climate change policy framework is

[9] Antigua and Barbuda's Nationally Determined Contribution (2015): http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/1/INDC_Antigua_Barbuda.pdf
[10] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/ncsa-documents/419.pdf

required to be developed under the National Environmental Policy Framework, under the leadership of the Minister with portfolio for Environment. This is stated in the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2015).

The EPMA aligns national law with the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the projected impacts of climate change – by:

1. The establishment of a National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) committee. This NCM is responsible, among others, for coordinating the management and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, including the UNFCCC. The composition is: four members of which at least one from Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chair), one from a non-governmental organisation, one from the business community; the Director of the Department of Environment (Secretary); five members from health, fisheries, agriculture, forestry and public works; and one member from the public utility authority. The NCM is an inter-institutional body that plays a role at the policy level (*NB*: the NCM has not yet been convened, and regulations/Terms of Reference need to be developed for the NCM).
2. The development of a National Policy for the Reduction of Emissions from Greenhouse Gases as set out in the UNFCCC and its related Protocols (hereinafter called the Climate Change Policy), and development of a National Adaptation Plan
3. The establishment of an Environment Registry as the basis for an informatics system on monitoring, compliance, reporting and notification requirements under multilateral environmental agreements to which Antigua and Barbuda is a party. The EPMA 2015 states that every Ministry, Department or statutory authority shall provide any information that may be requested by the Department (DoE) for inclusion in the Registry.
4. Pollution control (including GHGs) and adaptation actions. Under the EPMA, "pollution" includes greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). Pollution is recorded in an Environment Registry, which the public have access to per the EPMA, 2015. The Registry also promotes compliance with the national adaptation planning process as the Registry must contain information on "guidelines and codes of practice in environmental matters." This includes for example the Building Code, which is being updated to mainstream adaptation measures into the building sector, among others.
5. With respect to the reporting of data from the private sector, the EPMA states that the Director of the Environment shall prepare an inventory of commercial and industrial facilities existing in Antigua and Barbuda. In addition, the owner of a commercial or industrial facility shall prepare and submit to the DoE an environmental management plan including information on any pollutant produced or generated, the vulnerability or exposure of the facility to the impacts of climate change, and the impact on vulnerable youth, women, men, the elderly, differently-abled persons, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. This plan shall contain, among others, a monitoring programme, including reporting.
6. The EPMA provides for capitalization of the Sustainable Island Resources Framework Fund (SIRFF), which allows financing measures to assist implementing actions on adaptation and mitigation of climate change as provided for in the EPMA, its regulations and policies.

Antigua and Barbuda's proposed strategy is to internalize the objectives and principles of the transparency requirements in Article 13 the Paris Agreement with its national regulatory and institutional systems through the proposed Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project. By significantly advancing the functions and operations under the EPMA of the points outlined above, the CBIT project will contribute to routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes that enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement. will promote tracking of policies, measures and actions towards the achievement of climate change goals in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including the ratcheting mechanism of the Paris Agreement to increase ambition in NDC goals.

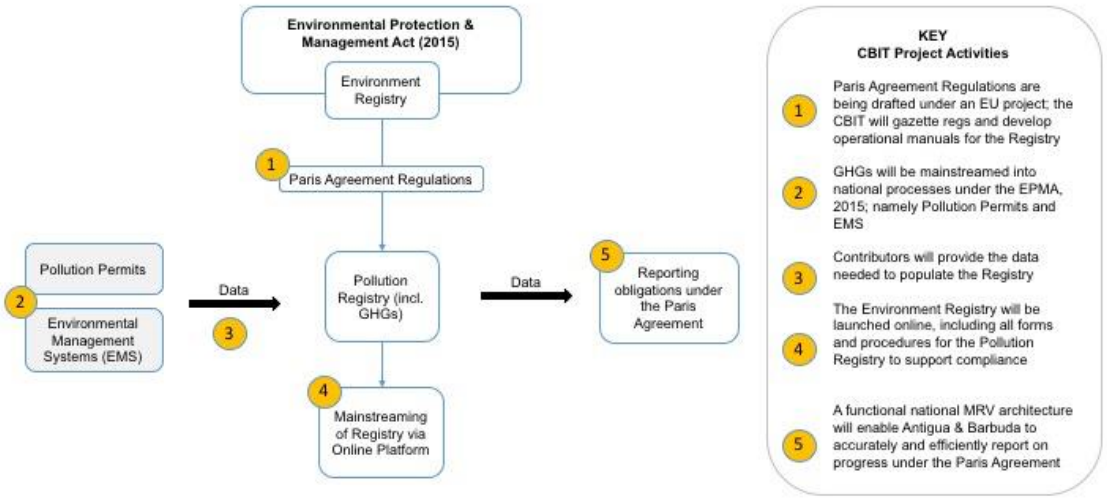


FIGURE 1. Antigua and Barbuda's framework for integrating tracking and reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement into national institutional arrangements, laws and regulations, and areas targeted for CBIT support under this project

Despite having overcome significant barriers through the EPMA of 2015, Antigua and Barbuda faces capacity constraints in the promulgation of the regulations and operationalizing the Environment Registry. Challenges identified in the NCSA are still relevant today, namely: limited human resource capability, particularly in relation to vulnerable youth, women, men, the elderly, differently-abled persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS; as well as inadequate funding. There is also limited public awareness about the provisions in the EPMA, and how individuals and businesses will be required to comply with the Act.

The Third National Communication submitted in September 2016, highlights data availability as one of the main gaps related to effective reporting, which is evidenced not only in the GHG inventory but also in reference to data collection in Barbuda. This National Communication also points out current inadequate infrastructure that impacts GHG inventories. The challenge that Antigua and Barbuda has faced in its national communications is that data is not collected or compiled on an ongoing basis, but rather on needs- or project-specific basis. This is a common challenge in SIDS. The communications strategy will target and incentivize marginalized communities to provide/ record data to input into the Environment Registry, building on ongoing and complementary projects, such as those with communities and schools.

The NDC of Antigua and Barbuda also prioritizes as elements for which the country requires international support the following: "Enhancing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) processes" and "Development of standardized baselines to assess and monitor the impact of implementing INDC adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

Finally, a risk that was overlooked in the NCSA, and the National Communications, is the risks to data security, which relates to Antigua and Barbuda's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Government agencies in Antigua and Barbuda have lost years' worth of data and information due to hurricanes that destroy buildings and cause water damage to equipment and paper records. Although technology is improving, cloud storage and back-up systems are impractical because of slow internet speeds island-wide, which heightens data security concerns as data and information may only be secured on physical infrastructure. Power surges, frequent power cuts, and excessive humidity are just some of the ongoing practical challenges to establishing a robust and transparent information system in Antigua and Barbuda.

Unless the CBIT project takes concrete measures to protect the security of the data being collected, this would not be a cost-effective project. The 2017 hurricane season underscores this reality. On September 6, 2017, the second most powerful hurricane on record made direct landfall on Barbuda, the northern island of the twin island state of Antigua and Barbuda. This is one of the projections of the Regional Climate Model for the Caribbean, which projects an increase in the intensity of hurricanes of between 5% and 15%. Hurricane Irma destroyed 90% of the building stock in Barbuda, and all communications were destroyed, leaving people without access to Antigua for days. Subsequently, the entire population of Barbuda was evacuated to Antigua as a second Category 5 hurricane approached. All critical facilities (air strips, sea port, schools, hospital, police station) were destroyed in Barbuda.

TABLE 1. Summary of effects and recovery needs in Antigua and Barbuda as a result of Hurricane Irma (source: preliminary World Bank damage assessment, October 2017)

Sector		Damage (EC$)	Changes in flow (Losses) (EC$)	Recovery needs (EC$)
Infrastructure	Transport	43,649,340	860,040	78,459,340
	Water	788,000	-	938,000
	Electricity	8,921,739	699,600	9,675,739
	Telecoms	1,896,440	100,000	1,896,440
Social	Health	1,581,620	40,987	*2,000,000*
	Education	4,931,000	609,379	13,215,439
	Housing	134,475,000	6,496,050	214,968,745
Productive	Tourism	73,330,664	40,608,398	85,043,675
	Agriculture	1,500,000	-	TBD
	Fisheries	565,241	1,000,000	*1,000,000*
Civil	Government	2,900,434	3,406,100	TBD
	Environment	-	-	13,500,000
TOTAL (EC$)		**274,629,478**	**53,910,554**	**407,197,378**
TOTAL (US$)		**102,857,482**	**20,191,219**	**152,508,381**

FIGURE 2. Office buildings in Barbuda left with no roof, destroying equipment and IT systems after the passage of Category 5+ Hurricane Irma in September 2017

Climate variability and change are already negatively impacting the economy and wellbeing of people living in Caribbean islands, including vulnerable women, youth, men, elderly, differently-abled persons, and persons with disabilities. Recent events have further exacerbated capacity constraints through the loss of infrastructure, equipment, data, and even human resources as people migrate following the destruction of their homes and livelihoods.

Antigua and Barbuda has, despite these challenges, completed its First, Second and Third National Communications to the UNFCCC, including emissions assessments using IPCC guidelines. However, these activities are not building

institutional monitoring, reporting and verification capacity, because the GHG tracking systems are not mainstreamed into domestic MRV systems. This presents a challenge to tracking the impact of policies, measures and actions as nationally determined contributions are financed and implemented in Antigua and Barbuda towards the global goals in the Paris Agreement for low emission climate resilient development.

2. Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

International support, particularly through the Global Environment Facility, has allowed Antigua & Barbuda to advance a framework for integrated environmental information systems and, thereby, to its capacity to transparently report on MEAs, including its progress towards implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. Previous and ongoing projects have been supporting Antigua & Barbuda in advancing technically towards establishing the integrated environmental information system as well as on general capacity for reporting (see Table 1 for a list of projects related to the proposed CBIT activities).

Table 2: Relevant complementary initiatives that have established a baseline for environmental information in Antigua and Barbuda

Funding Source	Project / Initiative	Alignment with the CBIT proposal
European Union Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)	Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Adaptation	• Developing "Paris Agreement Regulations" for the EPMA, 2015 • Developing the National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan and the National Environmental Policy Strategy and Action Plan to establish policy goals provided for in the EPMA, 2015
GEF	Third National Communication (closed project)	• Identification of Gaps and Constraints facing the country in the implementation of the UNFCCC • Inventory of national GHG emissions using IPCC guidelines
GEF	Fourth National Communications	• Identification of Gaps and Constraints facing the country in the implementation of the UNFCCC • Inventory of national GHG emissions using IPCC guidelines
GEF	Biennial Update Report (BUR)	Antigua and Barbuda is receiving support to collect data, develop and submit its first BUR. The objectives of the BUR are: • To develop a first Biennial Update Report for Antigua and Barbuda that utilizes GHG inventory data collection from at least 2015 per BUR guidance and that communicates information on financial, technical and capacity support received and outstanding needs. • To examine possible options of innovative sustainable financing solutions for GHG emissions reductions • The purpose of the BUR is not strengthening institutional capacities like CBIT, but for developing systems for the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of climate change. • The National Inventory Management System (NIMS) of the GHG inventory will document the steps taken in gathering data for the BUR and any

Funding Source	Project / Initiative	Alignment with the CBIT proposal
		challenges faced with obtaining data.
GEF Implementing Entity: UNDP	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD): Monitoring and assessment of MEA implementation and environmental trends in Antigua & Barbuda	• Improved data and information collection • Operationalization of EPMA sections 75 and 76 on Environmental Information – launch of the Environmental Information Management Advisory System (EIMAS) GIS unit; collection of GIS data for the Natural Resource Inventory • Improved capacities on reporting for 3 MEAs and producing a State of the Environment Report (EPMA Section 79)
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Readiness Support	• Develop a Country Programme for implementation of NDC targets • Submit an application for Accreditation to the GCF as a National Implementing Entity (Direct Access) • Develop a proposal for Enhanced Direct Access
Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (5C's)	Regional Planning for Climate Compatible Development in the Caribbean	• Country-specific training towards managing and implementing the Monitoring and Evaluation Instrument (MEI) for the Implementation Plan (IP) to the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change • Development of a draft Monitoring & Evaluation instrument for Antigua & Barbuda including baseline indicators
UNEP DTU Partnership	INDC Support	• Short report on the institutional arrangements for the development of an MRV system • Short brief on Monitoring & Evaluation framework for water sector
Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB)	Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2016 to 2020	• The MTDS was developed taking the Sustainable Development Framework into consideration. It includes a Monitor & Evaluation Plan with a set of indicators presented by Sustainable Development Dimensions. • Actions under the MTDS will simultaneously contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), among others
GEF	Technical Needs Assessment (TNA)	• The main objectives are to 1) carry out improved Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) within the framework of Article 4.5 of the UNFCCC, and 2) develop national Technology Action Plans (TAPs) for prioritized technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation to climate change, and are consistent with national sustainable development objectives. • It also aims to seek out and strengthen partnerships

Funding Source	Project / Initiative	Alignment with the CBIT proposal
		between countries and regional development banks/ donor organizations. The project has a training component but it is more focused on overall process and different steps for conducting the TNA, project preparation and proposal writing.

The projects in the table above have, and/or will, enable Antigua & Barbuda to build a legal and institutional framework that empowers the Department of Environment, as national climate change focal point, to collect and compile data and information in a coordinated way (Figure 2).

Capacity gaps have also been identified in Antigua & Barbuda's Third National Communications to the UNFCCC from 2015. It identifies amongst the most pressing issues under Chapter 6 – Gaps and Constraints, with the problems related to data collection and inadequate infrastructure. Although the aforementioned projects have enhanced data collection on a project-by-project basis, the interventions have not been designed to build institutional capacity for transparency that will enable routine data collection. The national institutional mandate for this is via the Pollution Registry for GHG tracking, which is not yet operational.

Antigua & Barbuda's capacity remains insufficient in light of increased responsibilities and reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement. The UNEP DTU partnership conducted an analysis of the current conditions and practices for data collection, monitoring and reporting in Antigua and Barbuda in 2017[11]. The report covered the GHG inventory and data collection for inventories, and the existing policy framework supporting MRV in Antigua and Barbuda, identifying the following:

- Antigua and Barbuda has already set up the base of a policy and institutional frameworks for the monitoring, collection and reporting of climate change data (the EPMA, 2015).
- The largest emission sources (e.g. industries, private sector, etc.) are not currently required to report regularly on their GHG emissions
- The collection and processing of data are not supported by an informatics network. Currently DoE manages a GIS-based system which is used as a central repository for environmental data. Some national stakeholders have access to it, but for consultation purpose only. It is thus not used as an interactive tool to collect data. Plans are in place to improve this system and provide the data by sectoral inputs.
- The legal basis for the monitoring/reporting framework on GHG emissions is the Environment Protection and Management Act (EPMA, 2015 - PART IX: Environmental Information). However, the establishment of an MRV (as a concept under the UNFCCC) framework for GHG monitoring/reporting is not explicitly mentioned; it is however implicitly operationalized through existing legislation.
- With respect to the reporting of data from the private sector, EPMA states that the DoE shall prepare an inventory of commercial and industrial facilities existing in Antigua and Barbuda. In addition, the owner of a commercial or industrial facility shall prepare and submit to the DoE an environmental management plan including information on any waste, pollutant or hazardous substance produces or generates. This plan shall contain, among others, a monitoring programme, including reporting.

The UNEP DTU Partnership (2017) made the following recommendations for a MRV framework for NDC implementation, based on the current gaps of such system:

- *Legal MRV mandate*: Another legal instrument such as a decree or a regulation could be passed to clearly state the roles and responsibilities of the DoE in terms of monitoring and reporting of climate change data and information.

[11] Denis Desgain and Miriam Hinostroza, 2017. INDC Project - technical support to Antigua and Barbuda: Short report on the institutional arrangements for the development of an MRV system. With support under the UNEP DTU Partnership.

- *Collection of data*: A bottleneck is quite often the availability of data. In Antigua and Barbuda, most of the data looks to be available. However, it seems that no systematic process for collecting data from the local level is established: consultants are in charge of taking contact with the different "data providers" and asking them to provide the data needed. In order to systematize the reporting/collection of data from the local level, there is a need to develop guidelines for generating the data, including measurement and collection. These guidelines could be prepared by the Data Unit of the DoE. These guidelines could already identify a list of key GHGs, adaptation measures, SD indicators, etc., needed to be reported to the UNFCCC (based on data and information needed for the preparation of national and international reports). These guidelines should provide explanation for developing measurement plans and approaches to data measurement and storage, methodologies for measurement, information on frequency of reporting, and identification of the stakeholders in charge of providing the data. In order to build an efficient data collection system and avoid duplication in responsibilities and methodologies, it would be important to involve and work in close collaboration with the existing statistic divisions of the different ministries.
- *Coordinated approach*: It is suggested to build up capacities in the different sectors and ministries to establish small groups of sectoral champions that would be in charge of monitoring the implementation of the mitigation and adaption measures in the respective sectors/ministries. These groups could be made responsible for collecting key data and information from different stakeholders involved in the implementation of these measures, including women, youth, men, the elderly, differently-abled persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS, and for compiling this information at the sectoral/ministry level for national reporting (to DoE).
- *Coherent approach*: The development of the climate change registry should take into consideration existing platforms (for example the GIS-based system) and built up on these platforms insofar as possible. In this sense, there is a need to identify all existing platforms, as well as the data that are already monitored (for example, the energy balance or any other information energy system that Antigua and Barbuda may possess).
- *Verification:* As long as the monitoring and reporting do not cover data used in crediting mechanism, the national verification process could be done by a third national entity. In Antigua and Barbuda, this verification role could be played by a unit established in DoE and/or by the TAC. The mandate, roles and responsibilities of the verification entity could also be passed and described in a legal instrument.

In addition to the capacity gap listed above, non-state actors including the private sector face capacity challenges and this will inhibit their ability to contribute to the national Registry. To satisfy the provisions of the EPMA and to benefit from shared responsibility with non-state actors, Antigua & Barbuda will need to actively integrate non-state actors into the MRV system. This is likely to motivate these actors' engagement in transparency-related and in general climate change-related process – a gap also identified in the Third National Communications. Cross-sectoral collaboration will support mainstreaming of climate change into national processes and on a basis for progress tracking and improvement of transparency over time.

3. **Proposed alternative scenario:** *NDC tracking systems are mainstreamed into domestic monitoring, reporting and verification systems and institutional capacity is strengthened to enable routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes that enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement*

The problem that this project seeks to address is that Antigua and Barbuda's data collection, monitoring, reporting and verification under the UNFCCC is conducted on a project-by-project basis. This approach limits the scope of what can be monitored and report, it results in methodological biases that can be consultant-specific and not nationally owned and appropriate approaches, and the project-specific approach does not build sustained in-country capacity. Further, as Antigua and Barbuda increases the scale and transformational impacts of climate change actions towards NDC goals, a project-by-project approach will result in higher MRV costs as it is less efficient.

The proposed alternative scenario of this GEF-CBIT project is to build routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring, reporting and verification processes using existing mandates and institutions, by: (i) operationalizing the Pollution Registry of the Environmental Registry for tracking GHG emissions, (ii) promoting transparency in the

MRV of climate actions for adaptation and mitigation, including policies, measures and actions in national contributions, and (iii) enhancing transparency of climate financing support received. The intention of the CBIT is to enable Antiuga and Barbuda to follow best international practices for national reporting frameworks, as presented below.

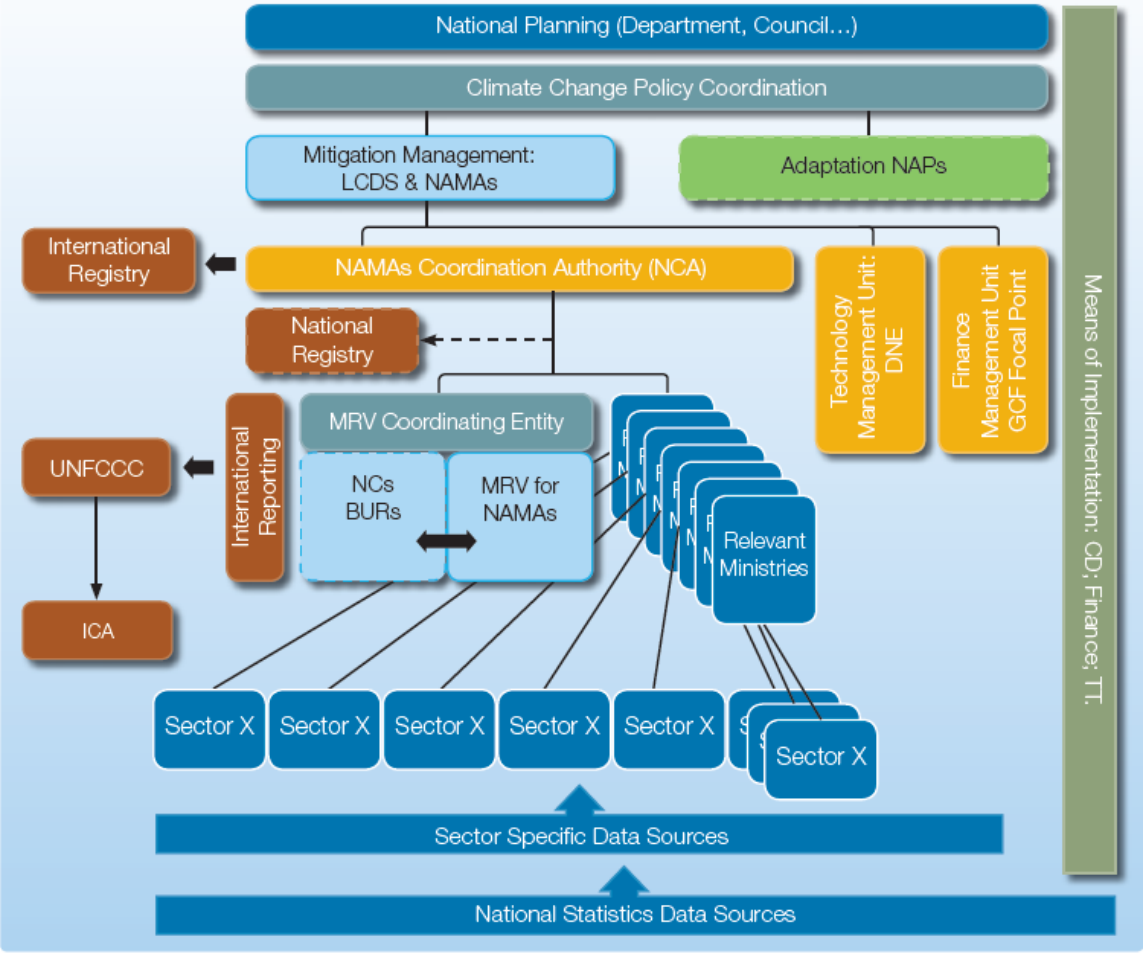


FIGURE 3. Main elements and linkages for recommended institutional arrangements for climate change monitoring, reporting and verification (UNEP DTU Partnership)

The proposed alternative scenario is to operationalize a MRV system at the national level. The legal mandate for this is provided for in Antigua & Barbuda's national legislation, the EPMA of 2015. Antigua and Barbuda is a SIDS, and as such the functions for both adaptation and mitigation are managed together under the umbrella of climate change:

- *Climate Change Policy Coordination* is the responsibility of the National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM)
- The *NAMA Coordination Authority* is the Department of Environment
- *MRV Coordinating Entity* is the Data Management Unit within the Department of Environment, which is responsible for compiling NCs, BURs, and overall MRV, and for managing the National Registry (the Environment Registry). The Data Management Unit coordinates with data units in the relevant ministries across sectors; with the support of the CBIT, the Data Management Unit will also be positioned to interface with the private and NGO sectors
- *Technology Management Unit* is the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes 17+ Government agencies, as well as 3 NGOs and one private sector coalition representative
- *Finance Management Unit* is the SIRF Fund Board, which includes the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment (GCF Focal Point) and other key agencies

The national legislation as established in the EPMA requires the establishment of the Environment Registry, which jointly with the Environmental Information Management Advisory System (EIMAS) constitutes the basis for Antigua and Barbuda's future monitoring and reporting capacity on environment, including climate change-related issues. The GEF-CBIT funding is essential to the establishment of the Environment Registry and, thus, completion of the integrated environmental information system complementing the EIMAS. GEF-CBIT will, therefore, not only advance a single element on transparency but lift Antigua & Barbuda's environmental monitoring and reporting capacity to a new level, fostering both public and private actors equally.

The project's alternative scenario is further very closely aligned with Antigua & Barbuda's NDC as it outlines under specific activities for capacity building: (i) support for data collection, storage and management; and (ii) support for education, training, public awareness, (iii) public participation, inlcuding by vulnerable women, youth, men, the elderly, differently-abled persons and persons with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS, and access to information, and (iv) international cooperation throughout implementation of the NDC targets. These support elements directly relate to the GEF-CBIT project outputs.

Project Objective: *To promote mainstreaming of NDC monitoring, reporting and verification into domestic systems and strengthen institutional capacity to enable routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes that enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement*

Component 1: **National Registry to support monitoring of NDC implementation and tracking climate change impact**

Antigua and Barbuda's national registry for climate change will be the integrated information system that houses the Environment Registry, enacted under the EPMA in 2015. However, the Registry and its Pollution section has yet not been operationalized. This component will comprehensively design the registry itself, build internal capacity within the DoE, relevent ministries, other sectors and non-state partners to directly manage, maintain and contribute to the Environment Registry, in order to track NDC implementation and monitor GHG emissions and exposure to climate impacts. The component will designate Antigua and Barbuda's Environment Registry to serve as the National Registry under the UNFCCC.

Outcome 1.1: ***The Environment Registry MRV function is established through a participatory process that includes a resilience assessment.***

Outputs:

1.1.1 Regulations, procedures and guidelines for monitoring, reporting and verifying climate change data are developed

Since the institutional arrangements are largely defined under the EPMA of 2015, this Output will focus on the procedures and guidelines for operationalizing MRV mandates. The National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) will be convened as the entity responsible for overall coordination. A clear description of the process and procedures, as well as guidelines for the different steps in the MRV process will be developed. Within this overall MRV framework, the Environment Registry will be designated to serve as the information repository. The Data Management Unit (DMU), which manages the Environment Registry, has the core function of ensuring integrity and day-to-day management of the data compilation and management processes, including tracking the indicators developed in line with the NDCs (Output 1.1.4). The DMU will develop guidelines for generating the data, including measurement and collection, in order to systematize the reporting/collection of data from the local level.

These guidelines will identify a list of key GHGs, adaptation measures, SD indicators, etc., needed to be reported to the UNFCCC (based on data and information needed for the preparation of national and international reports). These guidelines will cover inter alia:

- The aims and objectives of the national MRV system

- The guiding principles for MRV
- The roles of the various institutions involved in the MRV process and the overall system
- Identification of what actions should be measured
- Guidelines for developing measurement plans and approaches to data measurement and storage
- Methodologies for measurement and frequency of reporting
- Guidance on data collection; quality assurance / quality control requirements; and, storage of collection data to ensure that data is transparent, reproducible and facilitates domestic review and verification
- The guidelines for reporting information should ensure transparent, consistent, comparable and complete reporting, including reporting frequency, reporting requirements and formats. These guidelines should define the process for reporting information to relevant audiences and define the periodicity of reporting
- The guidelines for verification will describe the process of accreditation of verification entities if third party verification approach is adopted. These guidelines should cover the process and procedures to consider verification outcomes and its use

In order to build an efficient data collection system and avoid duplication in responsibilities and methodologies, the data divisions of the different ministries will be involved in close collaboration. The DMU will conduct consultations to assess the cost implications of MRV requirements, to ensure that the final system is appropriate and feasible. Such consultations will include, but are not limited to, the following main MRV stakeholders within the government: the Statistics Division, Department of Analytical Services, Central Board of Health, Fisheries Division, Directorate of Gender Affairs and Community Development Division. Additional consultations will be held with the Nongovernment Organizations (NGO's) such as the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARDC) and the Marine Ecosystem Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust; the Private Sector to include local environmental impact assessment (EIA) consultants; and Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) comprising of the registered community groups (see List of Stakeholders below). These consultation will be held at the beginning of the project to assist with planning the way forward for the remaining outputs. The project coordinating team will determine if, and when, additional consultations are required.

In light of the above, the Environment Registry may require finalization of legal requirements/expansion of its mandate such as through the promulgation of regulations. The EU's GCCA project with the Eastern Caribbean is supporting the development of "Paris Agreement Regulations", however the timeframe and funding for the activity is limited, so this CBIT project will need to set aside some resources for the promulgation of the regulations, including reviewing the Regulations in light of the proposed MRV framework. Formal agreements such as Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) will be established with relevant stakeholders for the data collection process. The agreement/MOU will provide details on the format and type of data that the stakeholders need to submit per the guidelines developed.

This Output focused on institutional arrangements will directly address the current gaps related to Legal MRV mandate but it will ultimately contribute to address data collection and verification gaps.

Activities under this output include:

- Convene the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM)
- Develop a clear description of the process and procedures, as well as guidelines for the different steps in the MRV process
- Conduct consultations with public sector's stakeholders on the appropriateness and feasibility of guidelines for the Environment Registry and MRV
- Develop quality assurance / quality control standards for the data that will be collected by the various stakeholders, including for storage
- Develop and endorse formal agreements (MOUs) with stakeholders to ensure 1) data of good quality is collected and 2) the longevity/institutionalization of the data collection process

1.1.2 Environment Registry is accessible to the public to promote accountability and transparency

This Output will focus on making the MRV system accessible to a range of stakeholders, including women, youth, men, elderly, differently-abled persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and is therefore an important step in promoting participatory MRV. An appropriate platform for the Environment Registry is critical to meeting the provisions of Section 78 of the EPMA, 2015 on public access. The DOE's website was recently updated[12] to become more user friendly with support from the GCF, for the DOE to fulfill its role as NDA to the GCF. It is the intention that the DOE's website will accommodate the Environment Registry and reflect the operational procedures once established. Online accessibility will promote information sharing across sectors and towards common targets identified in the NDCs. A web-based platform is an efficient way to integrate local, national and sector specific statistics data sources, and it is an important avenue for overcoming the bottleneck of the lack of availability of data. Consultations will be planned and executed by the project coordinating team with the support of the Data Management Unit to ensure that the environment registry portal on the platform is also user friendly. Periodicity of such consultations would occur in the planning and testing phases. Stakeholders in this process would consist of, but are not limited to, the government agencies, NGOs, private sector and CSOs mentioned in 1.1.1 above. Scope for involving additional stakeholders will be explored during the project preparation grant (PPG) phase.

The status quo is that data must be collected in person; data is not easily accessible or readily available. Fulfilling an objective of the EPMA, 2015, the Environment Registry will be used to establish baselines and meeting reporting requirements under the UNFCCC. These include Antigua and Barbuda's upcoming Biennial Update Reports (BUR) and National Communications. This output will systematize data collection and ensure transparency in the compliance with EPMA 2015 requirements by ensuring that this information is available to the public through the online platform. Having the Environment Registry as the official national source of information will build the country's capacity to integrate information across projects and contribute to an enhanced overall information system. Establishing baselines for UNFCCC reporting and making these available through the establishment of the online platform will be key steps in this regard.

This Output will mainly address the collection data gap and the consultations will also help to have a coordinated and coherent approach.

Activities under this output include:

- Conduct consultations, with public sector stakeholders, NGOs, private sector and CSOs on the design of the online user-friendly platform.
- Establish the online data portal for the Environment Registry ensuring it is user-friendly, including a step-by-step manual for data entry.

1.1.3 Data security and climate resilient assessment for the Environment Registry is conducted

To address the security risk that was overlooked by the NCSA, the CBIT project will conduct a risk assessment to identify and address vulnerabilities in the storage of national environment data. This is particularly important following the devastation suffered as a result of Hurricane Irma in September 2017. This infrastructure assessment will cover both digital and physical data security risks. Regarding the security risks to the digital data, an evaluation of the types of anti-virus and encryption software will be conducted. This will identify the current weaknesses in the data storage systems and provide solutions to address any possible threats. With respect to risks to the physical formats, an assessment of the security of the physical infrastructure within which the Registry is housed will be conducted. The Department of Environment has identified the relevant housing for the Registry, however a determination on its soundness and ability to withstand climate-related events needs to be done. This assessment will provide evidence to justify any improvements to the structure in an effort to increase its climate resilience. Acknowledging potential budgetary constraints, the Government of Antigua & Barbuda will provide or source co-financing should additional security measures be required. The assessment will be coordinated by the project team and will identify the most suitable entity for executing the task, taking into consideration the DOE's procurement process.

[12] Department of Environment website: http://environment.gov.ag/

This Output is needed due the vulnerability of Antigua & Barbuda to climate impacts and will contribute to address the collection data gap.

Activities under this output include:

- Undertake a structural and data security risk assessment as a critical capacity building activity due to infrastructure challenges faced by small island developing states when managing data.

1.1.4 Country-specific indicators in line with Nationally Determined Contribution targets are developed

This project will seek to elaborate and/or refine climate change indicators that are aligned to Antigua and Barbuda's Nationally Determined Contributions. These indicators will be monitored by the DMU using the Environment Registry through the MRV system developed through activities from Output 1.1.1 above. This Output will guide the content/data to be populated under Component 2 and will support transparency of climate action for NDC reporting under the Paris Agreement.

These indicators will build upon the indicators included in Antigua & Barbuda National Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) developed in 2015 by the Ministry of Finance & Corporate Governance. The National MTDS was developed taking the Sustainable Development Framework into consideration. It includes a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan with a set of indicators presented by Sustainable Development Dimensions. Actions under the MTDS will simultaneously contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the achievement of the NDC targets. This Strategy is valid over the Medium-Term (2016 to 2020) and will contribute to moving the country towards its long-term goals. This project will seek to develop relevant indicators that will contribute to the reporting of the MTDS and, in turn, the reporting of the SDGs.

This Output is directly based on the UNEP DTU Partnership recommendations regarding data collection and will support Antigua & Barbuda to comply with the UNFCCC requirements.

Activities under this output include:

- Develop/refine cost-effective indicators in a consultative way for Nationally Determined Contribution implementation, tracking and transparency.

Component 1 is aligned with section 18 of the CBIT programming direction on provision of relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13. Specifically, the following: (d) access to tools, templates, to facilitate use of improved methodologies for implementation of enhanced transparency-related activities (h) reporting progress towards NDCs.

Component 2: Institutionalization of the national transparency framework across sectors

This component will ensure the functionality of the Environment Registry as a central national tool associated with all data and information processes under climate action transparency. The achievement of the targets mentioned in the NDC will be monitored through the Environment Registry of the EPMA. Critical element to this goal is the raising of awareness across a diverse set of actors.

Outcome 2.1: The Environment Registry becomes the official national source for NDC monitoring, reporting and verification

Outputs:

2.1.1 Training to government agencies, private sector, and civil society is provided in order to appropriately and efficiently contribute data to the Environment Registry

The Environment Registry will be publicly launched once the procedures are in place, the key personnel are trained and the online system is established and populated with information. This public launching will target the demand-side of the system, focusing on "green" businesses and NGOs that will most benefit from having access to information in the Registry. Promoting demand for the information will support sustainability of the Registry. Country-specific training and peer exchange programs on transparency activities will increase demand for environmental information and data, and greater demand for the data will support overall functioning of the Environment Registry.

The guidelines and standards developed under Output 1.1.1 will provide the information on how the data is to be collected. This present output will utilize those deliverables along with the rest of the deliverables from the previous Component to coordinate the inputting of this information into the Environment Registry. Periodic trainings on the utilization of the manual (created in output 1.1.2) will be conducted with relevant stakeholders, including members of civil society. To ensure that individuals from all sectors within the society can interpret the data that is available in the Environment Registry, efforts will be made to also present it in concise non-technical forms. Stakeholders involved in this Output would consist of the Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) such as the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARDC) and the Marine Ecosystem Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust; the Private Sector to include local environmental impact assessment (EIA) consultants; and Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) comprising of the registered community groups. The PPG phase will inform which other stakeholders will be involved. Training on the use of the manual would occur before the initial population of the registry, subsequent trainings would then be determined by the project team.

This Output takes into consideration UNEP DTU Partnership recommendations regarding following a coordinated and coherent approach and will contribute to overcome the limited human resource capability that the country still faces.

Activities under this Output include:

- Conduct training on the MRVs and transparency system, policy impact assessment, and methodologies for tracking to private sector, civil society, and vulnerable communities
- Conduct training on indicators of different sectors on how to report to the NDC targets
- Conduct training on the procedures for the population of the registry
- Populate the registry

2.1.2 Evaluation, learning and scaling up of the transparency initiative are conducted

This Output will assess the progress under the CBIT project to achieve its objective, namely, to enable routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes that enhance transparency under the Paris Agreement. This activity is particularly important since it is not clear how many SIDS will contribute to the transparency and MRV framework under the Paris Agreement since it is discretionary, and therefore this Output will enable reflection on progress and dissemination of lessons learned to other capacity-constrained SIDS. Furthermore, as a member of the OECS, the project will identify entry points for scaling transparency arrangements within the OECS based on lessons learned in Antigua and Barbuda. Under this Output Antigua and Barbuda will also contribute and benefit from the CBIT Global Coordination Platform.

Activities under this output include:

- Develop a participatory evaluation of the CBIT project, the resultant capacity and the financial and institutional sustainability of the MRV system
- Disseminate lessons learned within the OECS and to other Small Island Developing States

Component 2 is aligned with section 18 of the CBIT programming direction on provision of relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13. Specifically, in its capacity to plan, coordinate,

monitor, and evaluate policies, strategies, and programs as laid out under CBIT programming direction 18 (a). It will further assist Antigua & Barbuda in the deployment and enhancement of transparency-related information as supported through programming directions 18 (c). Ultimately, the GEF CBIT project is fundamental for improving transparency over time as it will support the introduction of the Environment Registry as a fundamental tool to track Antigua & Barbuda's implementation of the NDCs.

4. **Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LCDF, CBIT and co-financing**

The CBIT programme is designed to improve capacity for reporting of signatories to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. As such, the CBIT is an enabling activity that is financed on full agreed cost basis. In the case of this programme, eligible activities have been described in the GEF Programming directions for the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (GEF/C.50/06). The activities of this project are consistent with the scope of the programming directions. Co-financing is not a necessary requirement for this project, however since Antigua & Barbuda is building upon the Environmental Protection and Management Act approved in 2015, there is a foundation of activities that are considered co-financing and have been included in table C.

Antigua and Barbuda has been investing its own resources to advance the national enabling environment for monitoring and reporting systems. As concluded by the UNEP DTU Partnership, Antigua and Barbuda has already established the base of a policy and institutional framework for the monitoring, collection and reporting of climate change data (the EPMA, 2015). This CBIT project is cost-effective because it will use existing institutions, strengthening them where gaps have been identified and broadening mandates where required, in order to promote transparency of NDC actions. These existing baselines that will be strengthened include the Environment Registry as the National Registry for the UNFCCC, the National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) for climate change policy coordination, the Data Management Unit (DMU) as the MRV Coordinating Entity, using Environmental Management System standards to include GHG emission reporting, among other strategic arrangements. The CBIT will fill gaps identified by the UNEP DTU partnership, including requiring reporting from the private sector and industry on GHGs, building a climate resilient informatics network, building capacities in different sectors and ministries to establish small groups of sectoral champions, and building on the GIS-based platform as possible.

Alternatively, Antigua and Barbuda could have taken an approach to begin drafting legislation and setting up new institutional arrangements. However, these would require much greater investments to achieve the same outcomes and would not be sustainable in the long run because the country is prioritizing resources for post-hurricane recovery. In addition, this duplicative approach would require more time to put MRV procedures in place; instead, Antigua and Barbuda can efficiently strengthen institutional arrangements and build data management capacity, and start tracking progress towards NDC targets in a routine, concurrent and participatory monitoring processes with a view to increasing ambition, as is the aspiration of the Paris Agreement.

Although as a Small Island Developing State Antigua & Barbuda is permitted to submit information under the Paris Agreement to its own discretion, it is committed to set an example of Small Island Developing States ambition and capacity to monitor and report in a trustworthy and coherent manner. With the approval of the Environmental Protection and Management Act (EPMA) in 2015, Antigua & Barbuda has set the path to establish solid monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems to assess the impact of climate change actions and policies and to track the implementation towards the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Project synergies and leverage

The DOE is accessing **GCF Readiness** support, including a Readiness application for USD 600,000 and an application for **National Adaptation Planning (NAP)** for USD 3 million. The Readiness funding is for capacity building in Environmental Management Systems (EMS), which is one of the areas that will provide data regularly to the Environment Registry. The Readiness support will also build capacity in local level partner executing entities –

the Development Control Authority (DCA), the Public Works Department, The National Parks Authority and the MEPA Trust. This includes support for managing data per responsibilities defined in the EPMA, 2015.

The **Government of Antigua and Barbuda** will commit an estimated USD 200,000 of in-kind co-financing for the CBIT project.

In the absence of GEF-CBIT funding, it is likely that Antigua & Barbuda will be unable to close the capacity gaps and leap towards a new, efficient and coordinated way of monitoring & reporting. Antigua & Barbuda's approach of monitoring and reporting spatial and non-spatial data and information in an integrated manner has the potential to advance the agenda of transparency, particularly strategies and policies related to climate change adaptation and in Small Island Developing States. As indicated, the GEF-CBIT funding constitutes logical coordination to past support projects and will provide leverage to other ongoing initiatives.

5. Global Environmental Benefits and/or Adaptation Benefits

This project will strengthen the availability of non-spatial information on the state and trends of the environment in Antigua and Barbuda. This will contribute both to national environmental monitoring and policy development. It will also strengthen the quality of data and its comparability with that of other countries, thereby contributing also to global monitoring. It will also support monitoring of progress towards MEA commitments by Antigua and Barbuda; and improve environmental information systems to support decision-making. Information available on open platforms can be used by a wide range of stakeholders from community levels all the way up to the global level.

The project will monitor the indicator for qualitative assessment of institutional capacity built for transparency-related activities under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The baseline and target will be set during the project development phase following the scale of 1-4 as per the guidance on Annex IV: Indicator for qualitative assessment of institutional capacity for transparency- related activities of the CBIT programming direction

The Environment Registry will provide the relevant information to track and enhance ambitions in reducing GHG emissions. By improving the coordination this will generate synergies and avoid duplication across initiatives and donor-support efforts. This ultimately leads to resources being available to target additional efforts in the global aim of complying with Article 2 of the Paris Agreement. In addition to this, the enhanced availability of data through a centralized Environment Registry platform will help to increase transparency capacity, resulting in the capacity to report progress on NDCs and long-term policy planning, providing for increased ambition.

6. Innovation, sustainability, and scaling up

Innovation

The presented GEF-CBIT project is innovative in multiple ways: (I) Antigua & Barbuda showcases how SIDS can comply with the Paris Agreement and its enhanced transparency framework despite very constrained resources; (II) Antigua & Barbuda's focus on climate change adaptation monitoring and reporting; and (III) Antigua & Barbuda's approach to integrate spatial and non-spatial environmental data and information for monitoring and reporting.

Small Island Developing States have received more leeway at the requirements to report regularly on its progress towards implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions in the Paris Agreement. Nonetheless, Antigua & Barbuda is determined to showcase how SIDS have the potential to report in a manner that is trustworthy and comparable, while considering the limited financial, technical, and human resources. Through the Environment Registry in coordination with the ongoing efforts in spatial data and information monitoring, Antigua & Barbuda will provide an innovative case example thanks to the GEF-CBIT funding.

Due to its climatic conditions and future climate projects, Antigua & Barbuda places a heavy focus on climate change adaptation. This is evidenced in the country's recent accreditation to the Adaptation Fund (AF) and present

push to become accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The country is readily developing a series of adaptation-focused projects to submit to these Funds that will address the numerous issues that are facing the country. The nation is now aiming to take an innovative approach by integrating this focus with environmental information systems. This will undoubtedly connect climate change and general environmental indicators and establish a fully functional MRV system. A significant role in providing reliable and comparable information on climate change adaptation project and strategy impacts is the availability of both spatial and non-spatial environmental data and their integration for subsequent monitoring and reporting. Through the GEF-CBIT funding, Antigua & Barbuda will be able to complement the spatial information system through the non-spatial Environment Registry.

Sustainability

Human, technical, and financial resources have historically been a constraint in Small Island Developing States. Reporting requirements like those under the different MEAs Antigua & Barbuda is signatory to constitute a significant additional burden on the already constrained resources. The coordinated and efficient effort for monitoring and reporting proposed in this proposal explicitly targets these constraints, constituting a win-win solution as it will promote enhanced transparency while reducing the burden on the country.

Although the funding is necessary from the GEF-CBIT to create the Registry, the project will ensure that its sustainability is guaranteed through the Strategy that will be created. In addition to this, the capacity building initiatives will also ensure that the relevant parties are equipped with the tools to function in their respective roles and will ultimately be able to support the longevity of the Environment Registry.

Scaling-up

The Revised Treaty of Basseterre established the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) as an Economic Union in 1981. The countries of the OECS share many similar characteristics including their vulnerability to climate change. As an economic union, there are opportunities to scale-up initiatives in the sub-region.

The EPMA, 2015 that was adopted in Antigua and Barbuda was model legislation that the OECS Commission had developed to advance the implementation of the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability (an OECS declaration), which Antigua and Barbuda tailored to its national circumstances. Antigua and Barbuda is already working within the OECS context, as it is applying for an Enhanced Direct Access project with two other OECS Member States to scale-up adaptation actions.

This project is suitable for scaling up both within Antigua and Barbuda and at the sub-regional level. The coordination and implementation of this project will be explicitly documented and will be available to other sectors of the Government. This can serve as a case study and available for replication. It can also be used as a benchmark that other OECS nations can compare themselves to.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no☐) and indigenous peoples (yes ☐ /no☒)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

Antigua and Barbuda does not have an indigenous population.

Regarding the participation of relevant stakeholders and local communities, CBIT implementation will involve non-governmental and private sector consultation. The Department of Environment works closely with CSOs and NGOs and a list of the stakeholders to be engaged in this project are listed below. The DOE works less frequently with the private sector, however the private sector will be engaged during the full project development stage and subsequent implementation to facilitate operationalization of the Environment Registry.

Table 3: List of Stakeholders that will be engaged in the CBIT Project

Type of Stakeholder	Name of Stakeholder	Engagement in the CBIT project
Government agency	Community Development Division (CDD)	The CDD registers community groups and liaises with them regularly. The CDD will be involved in the components 1 and 2 of the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
Government agency	Statistics Division	The division collects information about the country and environment based on the SDGs. They will be involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
Government agency	Department of Analytical Services	The division collects data about the country and environment based on the Cartgena Convention, They will be involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
Government agency	Central Board of Health	The division collects data about the country and environment based on the Cartgena Convention, They will be involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
Government agency	Fisheries Division	The division collects data about the marine environment. They will be involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
Government Agency	Directorate of Gender Affairs	The division interacts with vulnerable members of society. They will be involved in components 1 and 2 of the project; specifically Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
NGO	Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)	The EAG will be involved in the involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
NGO	Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC)	GARDC will be involved in involved in components 1 and 2 the project; specifically output 1.1.2 and 2.1.1
NGO	Marine Ecosystem Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust	Will provide the framework and procedures for establishing output 1.1.2 and participate in output 2.1.1
Private Sector	Local EIA consultants	The private sector will be involved in consultations on the guidelines and procedures development under component 1 (since these are an important use group or the data), and the second component of the project, specifically output 2.1.1
NGO	Antigua State College-led groups and other applicable school groups	Schools and school groups will be involved in the second component of the project; specifically output 2.1.1
NGO	Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons	Identification of spatial location of exceptionally vulnerable persons.

	with Disabilities	
CSOs	Registered community organizations	The project will work through registered community organizations in invite the involvement of vulnerable persons, particularly those working with vulnerable women, youth, men, the elder, differently-abled persons, and persons living with HIV/AIDS

In addition to the above, the Department of Environment's project management institutional arrangement includes oversight from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is the advisory body that provides technical guidance, policy recommendations and support; facilitating communication, cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders and other projects. The TAC includes representatives from 17 government agencies, 3 non-governmental organizations and one private sector coalition.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Are issues on gender equality and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

The DOE utilizes a Gender Policy and an Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy to monitor and manage risks to vulnerable groups. The TAC and PMC have approximately equal representation of women and men (usually women outnumber men), and therefore the project implementation arrangements are gender sensitive.

The GEF Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP) shall also be utilized to ensure that gender is mainstreamed within MRV and transparency system. It is anticipated that women will be direct beneficiaries, constituting at least 50% of all participants at the training and capacity building sessions. Procurement processes will strongly encourage women, including young women, elderly women, differently-abled women and those living with HIV/AIDS, to apply for consulting opportunities. Evaluation teams to review bids are also gender balanced. Additionally, this project will organize a gender-themed workshop on a topic that will be agreed upon during the PPG stage. This could be training on how the government has supported building women's and men's resilience, or how women and men have been engaged to adopt climate-smart agriculture practices, etc. Institutions to be consulted on gender engagement will include, but not be limited to: Ministries in charge of gender, the gender focal point for the convention on climate change, civil society organizations as well as research institutions and development partners working in the fields of gender and climate change. Further gender analysis relevant to this specific project will be undertaken during preparation of the full project document.

4 Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

The major risk that could prevent the successful implementation of the CBIT project are (a) data ownership and intellectual property issues (b) limited staff complement, (c) shifting priorities, (d) political buy-in and (e) coordination. The following are proposed measures that address these risks, and will be further developed during the project design phase:

Table 4: List of Projects Risks and Mitigation Measures

Project Risk	Rating	Mitigation
Data ownership and intellectual property issues prevent certain stakeholders from participating in the	High	A strong commitment from the government and political leadership at a high level can minimize such a risk. The NCSA process has already engaged many government actors which creates a positive precedent for fulfillment of the project. Moreover, building linkages with other

project		sectors: agriculture, energy, tourism, economic growth, poverty reduction, infrastructure will provide incentives for cross-ministerial support. In particular, it is important to develop arrangements for shared ownership of the national environmental information system and show how it can benefit different sectors without affecting the current division of responsibilities between different government sectors and research institutions. Any intellectual property or data sharing issues can be addressed through a strong access to information policy by the government, including the amendment of any necessary laws and regulations on this subject, and also by requiring transparency and data sharing as a condition for external research institutes conducting research and collecting data on the country.
Limited Staff Complement	Medium	As a SIDS, Antigua & Barbuda is stretched in terms of the number of technical staff available in the government. An effort will be made to address this risk by planning the project in a realistic manner and factoring in additional resources needed to implement the project, under government leadership and political supervision, in the project budget.
Shifting priorities detract from project implementation	Low	Extreme weather events or changes in government could result in a temporary focus by the Government on other issues, detracting from project implementation. To the extent consistent with the project, it would aim to address this risk proactively by demonstrating how environmental information can support a range of different priorities, whether disaster risk reduction or relief, or policy development and planning in different sectors of government. The fact that the basis for this project is legislated mitigates against risks of shifting priorities.
Political buy-in	Medium	Create high-level awareness and seek final approval from political authorities from the line ministries at the onset of the project implementation. Provide regular progress reports to the Ministers who sectors are included in the CBIT project.
Poor project coordination and limited alignment among government agencies	Low	Fully integrate CBIT project management team into existing project management institutional arrangements. Establish channel for regular briefing to all relevant stakeholders and organizations. Ensure clear linkages of NDC action implementation with line ministries
Impact Risk	Rating	Mitigation
Data and information systems remain disjointed, undermining the validity of information in NDCs, etc.	Medium	Engage the OECS to mainstream data and information systems within the sub-region; build capacity at the OECS level to enhance transparency and accountability in climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement

5. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

The project will be implemented in line with established Government of Antigua and Barbuda procedures. The DOE will take overall responsibility for implementation of the project, and for the project success. It will establish the necessary planning and management mechanisms to oversee project inputs, activities and outputs. The UN Environment Team will support the DOE as requested and as necessary.

In addition, the DOE's project management institutional arrangements are designed to promote linkages and synergies across the projects and initiatives that it implements (see figure below). The Project Management Unit (PMU) is the project implementation arm of the DOE and is responsible for day-to-day activities. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meets monthly and reviews all project, revised documentation, reviews TORs, and

appraises project risks. The Project Management Committee (PMC) is made up of the Permanent Secretariats of the relevant agencies and is responsible for financial oversight and is an accountability mechanism to track project risks and mitigation measures.

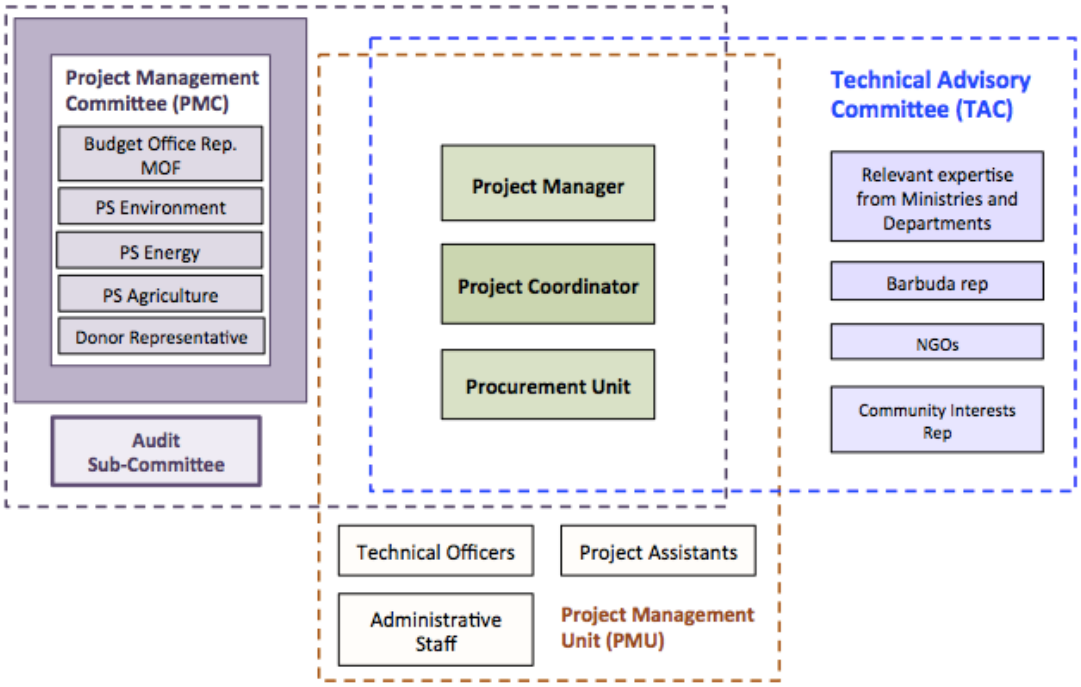


FIGURE 2. DOE's project management institutional arrangements

Since this project management arrangement is consistent across the DOE's portfolio of project activities, the framework requires that projects are rationalized and minimizes duplication across activities.

TABLE 5: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S RELEVANT ONGOING GEF PROJECTS

Initiative	Timeframe	Focus Area
Monitoring and assessment of MEA implementation and environmental trends in Antigua and Barbuda (with UNDP)	PPG phase: June 2016 – June 2017	Multi-Focal Areas CCCD-1
The Path to 2020 – Antigua and Barbuda (with UNEP)	PPG phase: June 2016 – December 2017	Biodiversity
Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries (with UNEP)	PPG phase: June 2016 – December 2017	Biodiversity
Biennial Update Report (BUR)	Under implementation (2017 – 2019)	Climate Change

TABLE 6: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA'S ADDITIONAL ONGOING PROJECTS

Funding	Initiative	Timeframe
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	National Adaptation Planning (NAP)	Project Proposal submitted to GCF (3 years project will be implemented from 2017 to 2020)
Green Climate	GCF Readiness support	Project proposal submitted to GCF (1-year project

Fund (GCF)		being implemented from 2017 – 2018)
European Union	EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) initiative being implemented through the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which is developing the regulations for the Pollution Control section of the EPMA (2015), to align with the Paris Agreement.	4 years project (2014 – 2018)

This project will coordinate with the projects listed through the institutional arrangements that presently exist for the management of environmental projects in Antigua & Barbuda. Day-to-day project implementation will be coordinated by the DOE through the PMU. The TAC will be available to provide additional technical guidance and support to project implementation. The PMC will provide policy guidance and oversight. This is the present arrangement that exist in Antigua and Barbuda and allows for synergies with other projects to be identified, explored and executed.

The project preparation grant process will be used to further define the management, coordination and consultation mechanisms. Stakeholders will be involved in all stages of the project and will be involved in the validation activities, design of outputs and will be included in trainings. Activities should be implemented to involve as many and as diverse stakeholders as possible.

***6. Consistency with National Priorities*. Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.**

The CBIT project is consistent with Antigua and Barbuda's strategies, plans and reports under the UNFCCC and its national development objectives.

The **National Medium-Term Development Strategy (2016 – 2020)** finalized in September 2015, represents strategies and actions to be undertaken by Antigua and Barbuda between 2016 and 2020, to move the country towards its long-term development goals. The strategic vision is, "A harmonious, prosperous and modern Antigua and Barbuda founded on the principles of sustainability and inclusive growth; where equality of opportunity, peace, and justice prevail for all citizens and residents". The attainment of this vision is guided by a sustainable development approach, "To improve the quality of life for all Antiguans and Barbudans and their posterity".

The **Draft National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan** (currently under development) includes activities to enhance the capacity for adaptation and mitigation implementation, and for activities includes developing a Register of Persons/consultants locally and in the Eastern Caribbean sub-region with expertise in climate change in the Environment Register (see EPMA 2015); obtaining equipment for data management and effective execution of duties; and implementing training and certification programmes for climate adaptation and mitigation in the public and private sectors.

The basis for Antigua and Barbuda's CBIT proposal is a strong legal and policy framework for environmental information, which prioritizes the outcomes that this project will deliver. Part IX of the Environmental Protection and Management Act (2015) focuses on environmental information and establishes the EIMAS (Section 74), a Natural Resources Inventory (Section 76), Environment Registry (Section 77) and delivers a State of the Environment Report (Section 79).

Access and transparency are key elements in the information systems being established. Under the **Freedom of Information Act, 2004**, section 15(1), "every person has the right to obtain, on request, access to information" that is not otherwise protected. The Act further directs an obligation of a coherent view of data holdings, including through the designation of Information Officers (IO), outlined in section 9(1) and 9(2), with a responsibility to,

"promote within the public authority the best possible practices in relation to record maintenance, archiving and disposal."

Additionally, Antigua & Barbuda have identified their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which provides special considerations for the transparency within MRV processes and the need for activities to assist with education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation. Regulations are being created to ensure there is legal basis for the transparency and access of the information stored within the registry.

In line with UNFCCC requirements Antigua and Barbuda produced their initial (2001), second (2009), and third (2015) National Communications to the UNFCCC. The documents layout the national context in relation to adaptation and mitigation challenges across various sectors in the islands. The **Third National Communication** identifies the need to improve the quality of data collected for future inventories.

This project is complementary to the on-going **BUR,** while the BUR will contribute to develop systems for the monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of climate change, this CBIT project will strengthen the institutional capacities**.**

Finally, in the CEO endorsement request for the **TNA** project Phase III, which until February 2018 has not been approved, it is stated that Antigua & Barbuda requires support for implementation include of a set of activities including: Enhancing Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) processes; Development of standardized baselines to assess and monitor the impacts of implementing INDC adaptation and mitigation initiatives; Support for data collection, storage and management.

7. Knowledge Management. **Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

Antigua & Barbuda's GEF CBIT proposal has knowledge management at its core and focuses similarly on knowledge dissemination. The country believes that sharing the outputs of the project with a broad user-base, including through an established online presence, will enhance the knowledge management and longevity of this project, which is closely aligned with national priorities and agency mandates.

The Environment Registry, key element of this proposal, itself is centred around knowledge management as its purpose is to provide environment information to a range of stakeholders – both public and private. DOE as indicated manager of the Environment Registry will ensure that all documentation will be obtained categorised, and available for access. Additional regulations and procedures will be produced for access and use of the registry by other agencies. The project will work closely with the Project Management Committee (PMC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) who have historically been the key institutionalized knowledge management and coordination structures.

With regard to knowledge dissemination, Antigua & Barbuda aspires to share its experience with the Environment Registry and transparency. As indicated through Output 2.1.1, the country considers it crucial to build capacity including raising awareness nationally as well as in the region. This output will include meetings with government, private sector and NGO stakeholders on the Registry's operationalization. Internationally, Antigua & Barbuda considers it important to share the project's lessons learnt widely with the international community to foster the global knowledge base. It is envisioned that the platform will be made accessible to the international audience as part of CBIT's global activities, making Antigua and Barbuda a knowledge hub. Therefore, the project will define how this information shall be shared and updated on the global coordination platform. Sharing lessons learnt and experiences under the platform will ensure alignment of Antigua & Barbuda's CBIT project with other national, regional and global transparency initiatives. Considering the innovativeness of the present proposal regarding climate

change adaptation transparency, coordinated and efficient efforts of a SIDS, and the integration of environmental data and information, Antigua & Barbuda believes that it will be of fundamental value to share its experience widely.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

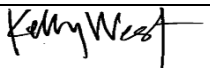
A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT[13] OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this SGP OFP endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/dd/yyyy)*
Diann Black-Layne	Director, Department of Environment	Ministry of Health and the Environment	**02/02/2017**

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies[14] and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date *(MM/dd/yyyy)*	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Kelly West Senior Programme Manager & Global Environment Facility Coordinator Corporate Services Division UN Environment		March 7, 2018	Ruth Coutto, Task Manager and Co-portfolio Manager	+33(0)144371634	Ruth.coutto@un.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required **GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template** to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

[13] For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

[14] GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT