

Peer Learning Exchange on Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Monitoring Reporting and Verification Systems and Sharing Technical Insights on the Implementation of National CBIT Projects in four Anglophone African Countries



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The workshop was graciously hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe.

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1. Introduction

This report highlights the proceedings and outputs of the peer learning exchange workshop on sharing best practices on the establishment of Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, technical insights, challenges, and constraints in national CBIT project implementation in four Anglophone Africa countries. The Government of Zimbabwe graciously hosted the workshop through its Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife (MECW). The Capacity-building Initiative - Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) facilitated the peer learning exchange workshop as part of its Anglophone Africa Transparency Network and its dedicated Network Coordinator. CBIT-GSP is a global transparency support programme funded by GEF, implemented by UNEP and executed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre.

This peer learning was initiated during the COP 28 discussions among CBIT members from (Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Malawi) all being funded by the GEF with UNEP acting as the GEF Implementing Agency; the members unanimously agreed to convene for peer learning, experience sharing, and collaboration to discuss our common interests, inherent challenges and explore more opportunities to assist our countries within and beyond the first and current phase of CBIT. Against this background, a 3-day Peer learning, exchange, and collaboration workshop was organized for the 4 Anglophone African countries implementing the CBIT projects through UNEP.

In total, 15 people (7 male and 8 female) participated in the peer learning, representing the four countries South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Sierra Leone, as well as UNEP and CBIT-GSP. The list of participants is attached as Annex II.

The key output of peer learning was a common list of activities to be implemented by countries by December 2024. Among other activities, countries would like to enhance their capacity on the CBIT project cycle, including elaborating on the requirements of the terminal evaluation and a CBIT phase two project. The activities that were identified for mutual learning will be coordinated by CBIT-GSP. The summary of the priority activities is presented in section 4.1 of the report. The peer learning was guided by the agenda attached as Annex I. All workshop material, including the presentations delivered during the peer learning, can be accessed through the Climate Transparency Platform using [this link](#).

1.1 Background

The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency-Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) in collaboration with UNEP and the Government of Zimbabwe, through its national Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project under the Industry and Economy division, executed by the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI), jointly organized a peer learning exchange workshop on sharing best practices on the establishment of Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) and Measurement, Reporting, and

Verification (MRV) systems, technical insights, challenges, and constraints in national CBIT project implementation in five Anglophone African countries.

1.2 Objectives

The specific objectives of the peer learning exchange workshop were the following:

- Share best practices and technical insights on the functionality of GHG inventory and how the inventories can be operationalised in institutions of CBIT projects in Anglophone African countries.
- Share challenges and constraints in CBIT project implementation and identify and devise appropriate mitigation measures.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen further in-country capacities to implement the provisions of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement.
- Develop and strengthen collaborations and synergies among African countries in the implementation of the ETF and share expertise across countries.
- Strengthen collaboration between CBIT and other initiatives/projects, such as Enabling Activities for the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs)

1.3 Approach to Peer Learning

The core approaches of peer learning utilised in this workshop include collaboration, reflection, communication, and self-peer assessment. Different activities in this peer learning allowed the exchange of both knowledge and experiences among countries and thereby facilitated a learning process.

CBIT-GSP facilitated the learning sessions with various interventions and approaches, including discussions, group work, quizzes, and collective development of learning concepts per country. During the training, UNEP also elaborated on the project management elements necessary to implement CBIT national projects effectively in different countries. The institutional collaborative facilitation by CBIT-GSP and UNEPCCC during the training enhanced learning among the countries. The following steps were taken in this process, as elaborated and shown in Figure 1.

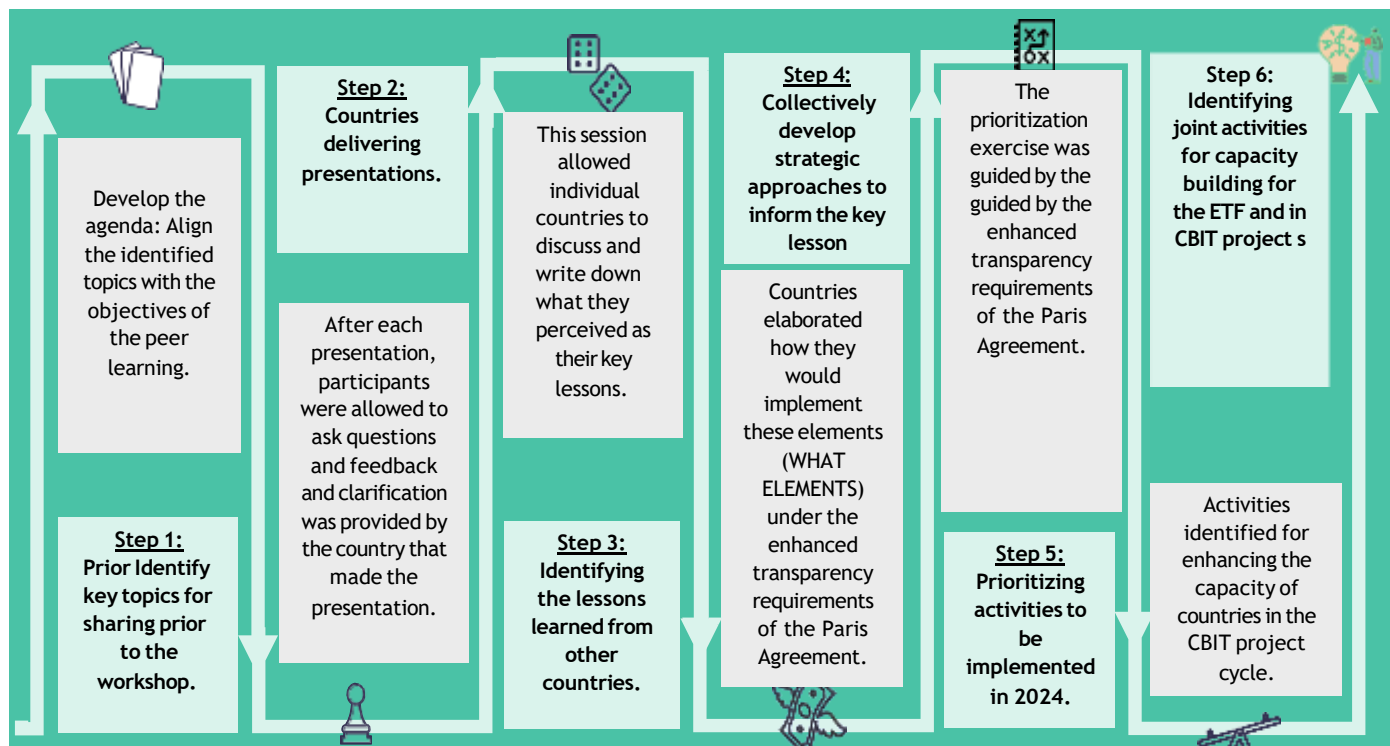


Figure 1: Iterative key steps followed during peer learning on ETF in Anglophone Africa.

Step 1: Prior to the peer learning workshop, each country identified a specific topic or area of expertise that it would share during the workshop. A 3-day workshop program was developed, ensuring that these topics align with the overall objectives of the peer learning. Among others, the topics for learning include:

- Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) under the Paris Agreement.
- Share good practices and technical insights on the functionality of GHGI and how South Africa was able to operationalize the GHG inventory process in institutions.
- Share good practices and technical insights on developing the online MRV system in Malawi.
- Share good practices and insights on institutional arrangements in Zimbabwe.
- Share challenges and constraints in the implementation of the CBIT national project. Lessons learned on institutional arrangements from Sierra Leone.
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen further in-country capacities to implement the provisions of ETF under the Paris Agreement (CBIT-GSP).

Step 2: Presentations by countries on their selected topics for learning selected. After each presentation, participants were allowed to ask questions, and clarification was provided by the country that had the presentation.

Step 3: Identified lessons learned from other countries. Countries were requested to reflect on the shared experiences and identify key lessons from the countries that have been

presented. This session allowed individual countries to discuss and write what they perceived as their key lessons from other countries. These lessons from each country were pinned on the wall for further synthesising.

Step 4: Developing strategic approaches for implementing the lessons learnt from each country. After countries identified key lessons from each other, they were asked to reflect on how they could apply these lessons to implementing enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. They conducted this activity through cross-learning and joint presentations among countries. The selection of appropriate strategies was based on countries' institutional arrangements, policies, capacity, and available resources.

Step 5: Prioritizing activities to be implemented in 2024. Based on the strategic approaches for implementing the lessons learnt as defined in the previous step, each country was asked to prioritize three activities. The prioritization was based on the key requirements for the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement. Countries identified priority activities that can be implemented at the national level, activities for peer learning from each other, and activities for capacity building and training. Countries also identified activities on specific topics that can be implemented in the short term through technical webinars and virtual workshops, facilitated by CBIT-GSP.

Step 6: In the last step, countries were asked to identify joint activities, such as enhancing the capacity of countries in the CBIT project cycle, including elaborating the requirements of the terminal evaluation and CBIT phase two.

2. Opening sessions

Welcome remarks were delivered by the Government of Zimbabwe, the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency-Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

2.1 UNEP

Ms. Kerubo Moseti from UNEP thanked everyone who put effort into preparing for the workshop. She also thanked all participants for taking the time to attend the workshop. She highlighted that CBIT is funded by the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), and it aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. She reminded the participants that the



Photo 1: Ms. Kerubo delivering her presentation.

CBIT projects are ending this year, and countries need to put efforts into finalizing all activities under their CBIT projects.

2.2 CBIT-GSP

Ms Sheila Kiconco from CBIT-GSP thanked the chair of the meeting and the government of Zimbabwe for hosting the peer learning exchange workshop. She indicated that the CBIT-GSP complements national CBIT projects by enhancing the capacities of African countries in the transition to the ETF. She highlighted that participants should be keen to utilize this opportunity to ask how other countries have managed to implement the ETF requirements. She closed by requesting countries to openly share information so that countries can learn from one another and improve reporting.

2.3 Zimbabwe

Mr. Washington Zhakata, Director of Climate Change Management, Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (MECTHI). Welcomed and thanked participants for attending the workshop. He indicated he had worked in different sectors of the climate change space when the CBIT project was initiated. He mentioned that the participants will discuss the most important issue of climate change, a global concern that is still evolving. He explained that countries need to report their GHG emissions transparently to meet their reporting requirements. He then indicated that institutional arrangements must be made transparently, along with tracking emissions and measuring progress. He then declared the workshop as open.

3. Peer Learning Presentations

3.1 ETF and MPGs under the Paris Agreement

Ms. Kiconco gave an overview of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and the Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) under the Paris Agreement. She reminded participants of the purpose of the peer learning exchange. She presented the MPGs countries need to follow when compiling BTRs and NCs and highlighted the importance of CBIT projects. She also answered a question from a participant, as seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Interactions, questions, and answers on ETF and MPGs

Questions	Response/comments
<i>Are you preparing online workshops, as they are essential to African countries?</i>	The CBIT-GSP has a series of learning events, including online workshops, in-country trainings, and regional trainings, such as the one that will take place in June 2024 and be hosted in Rwanda.

3.2 South Africa

Ms Rumbidzai Mhunduru from South Africa presented good practice and technical insights on the functionality of its GHG system and how South Africa was able to operationalize the GHG inventory process in its institutions. She gave an overview of the GHG inventory process in South Africa and described the **institutional arrangements for developing and maintaining GHG inventory** in South Africa. She elaborated that the Climate Change, Air Quality and Sustainable Development branch at the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) is responsible for compiling the GHG inventory. The branch works with the Chief Directorate in Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation. She highlighted that an inventory lead is responsible for Quality Control (QC). The inventory lead is the overseer and checks requirements, while a lead compiler is responsible for writing general chapters of inventory, and sector specialists are responsible for collecting data, processing, and estimating GHG following 2006 IPPC Guidelines and UNFCCC reporting guidelines.

The **National GHG Inventory Management System** to archive data for future use was emphasized. She elaborated that the system helps the department get information from previous years. She explained that the number of companies reporting their emissions to the department has increased over the years (Figure 2). She noted that 197 companies registered and reported their emissions in the first reporting cycle, whereas 443 companies registered with South African GHG Emissions Reporting System (SAGERS) and reported their emissions. The main **challenge the inventory unit** faces is a high turnover of the sector specialists. Only two specialists are permanent employees; the others are on donor-funding contracts. South Africa has submitted its **8th National GHG Inventory**. The 9th National GHG Inventory is undergoing a public consultation process for 30 days. The presentation attracted discussion and questions, as shown in Table 2.



Photo 2: Two photos taken during a presentation from South Africa

Table 2: Interactions based on the presentation from South Africa

Questions	Response/Comment
<i>How is South Africa assessing its capacity-building needs?</i>	<p>The country has a GHG improvement plan that looks at all areas with gaps. The government looks at what it can prioritize and improve in the future.</p> <p>In terms of tracking progress, the country reports its BUR following MPGs.</p> <p>The country is going to develop a website where everyone can access information.</p>
<i>What are the challenges that South Africa faces when accessing data?</i>	<p>The country has one unit that deals with GHG Inventory. Each sector has one specialist responsible for collecting data for that specific sector.</p> <p>The country is continuously building the capacity of data providers and companies.</p>
<i>Does the country need a provision for companies reporting emissions?</i>	<p>The inventory team tried to establish institutional arrangements in the past but there were challenges. The country's regulations target companies that are producing emissions.</p> <p>Municipalities conducting different activities are required to register and report their data. However, most stakeholders reporting emissions to the department are companies.</p>
<i>How often do the sectors submit data?</i>	<p>Data is submitted regularly. The chief directorate is responsible for submitting the data, and the unit gets the data from stakeholders because of the strong regulations that companies follow in the country.</p>
<i>Which principal act does the country rely on?</i>	<p>The minister is allowed to declare/ announce GHG gases under the Air Quality Act. The inventory unit is using gases announced by the minister under the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA).</p>
<i>How does the country manage the retention of information?</i>	<p>No one has access to the data, which keeps the company's information safe.</p> <p>Contract staff are from donor funding. However, the two permanent employees are responsible for all sectors if the contract ends.</p>
<i>How does the country interact with data providers for different sectors?</i>	<p>The inventory team gets the data from the reporting programme. It also depends on where the team is getting the data. For example, in the energy sector, the team receives information from the annual energy balance report that DMRE publishes.</p>
<i>How do you intend to synchronize the data the experts have collected?</i>	<p>The inventory unit has sector experts responsible for collecting data for all sectors.</p>

Questions	Response/Comment
<i>How do you deal with the issue of abandoned methane?</i>	The country does not look at abandoned methane because it needs data for its improvement plan. The team will look at the abandoned emissions when they get funding.
<i>How long does it take for the country to reach emission data for a particular level?</i>	The country submitted its first inventory from 1994 to 1998. The government used the Tire 2 emission factor for the 2020 and 2022 inventory. However, in 2020 and 2021, they will start with the agriculture/livestock sector. The department has collaborated with the Agricultural Research Institute (ARC), an academic institution.

3.3.1 Lessons learned by other countries from South Africa's presentation.

The three countries, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone, documented the lessons learned from South Africa's presentation. The key highlights were developing and implementing regulations on data collection, establishing an institutional structure for GHG inventory compilation, and developing a well-structured improvement plan, among others (Photo 3). These lessons drawn by each country were pinned on the wall. Detailed lessons learned for each country are presented in Table 3.

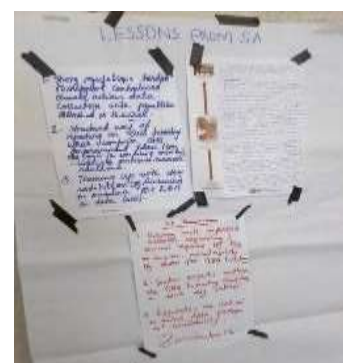


Photo 3: Lessons from South Africa's presentation.

Table 3: Lessons Learned from South Africa's Presentation

Country	Lessons learned from South Africa's presentation
Zimbabwe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having a well-organized reporting structure / annual reports is key to ensuring data availability for the GHG Inventory. 2. Sector experts within the GHG inventory compilation unit are very critical. 3. Regulations are critical to ensure data provision and availability.
Malawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnering with other institutions is good in terms of QA C QC. 2. Models are suitable for planning different scenarios. 3. Strong regulations are needed to support centralized climate action data collection with penalties in the Act.
Sierra Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of a technical working group to promote cross-learning. 2. Enhanced partnership for the development of country-specific emission factors. 3. Development of NDC tracking tools. 4. GHG mitigation scenario projection up to 2050. 5. Development of Climate Change Communication Strategy. 6. Involvement of CSOs as data providers for the platform.

3.4 Malawi

Mr. Clifford Mkanthama from Malawi presented on Malawi's journey in developing an online MRV system. He indicated that the system would allow sectoral focal points to directly input relevant data and information on their sector climate in Photo 4. The CBIT national projects have three components: establishing the National Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, developing and operationalizing an integrated platform for data management and targeted capacity building to strengthen institutional and individual capacities to meet the ETF requirements of the Paris Agreement.

He indicated that components 1 and 2 have different outputs and deliverables, which were as follows:

Component 1: The outputs and deliverables are being facilitated by the African Sustainability Center (ASCENT) based in Nairobi, Kenya. However, the firm has undertaken an assessment and submitted a report on the existing technological and institutional capacity needs, constraints, and gaps in developing an online data platform, building upon previous assessments.

Components 2: A data management platform customized to the country's circumstances and operationalized to support the MRV system.



Photo 4: Mr Clifford delivering a presentation on Malawi.

He indicated that the country learned that there is a need for strong ICT personnel to support consultants and consistent follow-up and reminders for meeting deadlines through emails and virtual meetings. The presentation attracted questions in Table 4.

Table 4: Interactions, questions, and answers from Malawi's presentation

Questions	Response/interactions
<i>What are the challenges of having different focal points?</i>	The country has identified experts in four sectors under the focal point: two people per sector. One expert is female, and the other one is male. This has been done to balance the gender in the workplace.
<i>What are the sectors and tools used to develop the Inventory?</i>	The country used GHG data collection tools across all four sectors.
<i>What are the specific data that the country has identified from its regulation?</i>	The country has institutions that do not provide data; sometimes, the data does not come at all.
<i>How often does the country report data?</i>	The country still needs to have that in place.
<i>How are you going to disaggregate data and share it as per request?</i>	The data will be given on demand, and stakeholders requesting data must write the purpose of using the data.

Questions	Response/interactions
<i>Do you foresee building an allowance on your platform?</i>	There has been scientific discovery and recent documentation of information.
<i>How do you foresee the public data happening?</i>	The country is going to launch reports on the platform.
<i>Will the system be hosted within your institution, or will you hire a service provider?</i>	The decision will be made.

3.4.1 Lessons learned by other countries from Malawi's presentation.

The three countries, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone, documented the lessons learned from Malawi's presentation. The key highlights were the integration of the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU) into the government departments, which is critical for sustainability and increasing the number of GHG reports, among others. These lessons from each country were pinned on the wall. Detailed lessons learned for each country are presented in Table 5 and Photo 5.



Photo 5: Lessons from Malawi's presentation.

Table 5: Lessons Learned from Malawi's Presentation

Country	Lessons learned from South Africa's presentation
Zimbabwe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integration of the Climate Transparency Unit (CTU) into the government departments is critical for sustainability. 2. Sector focal points important for data collection.
South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using government funds to support the maintenance of the online platform. 2. The system will have parts that are publicly accessible and parts that protect the confidentiality of data. 3. There is a need for strong ICT personnel to support consultants in developing a sustainable platform
Sierra Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having the Climate Transparency and Compliance Unit (CTCU) in place to ensure transparency, confidence in data and accurate reporting. 2. Development of national emission factors in enhancing GHG reporting 3. Comprehensive emission inventory system in place 4. Increasing the number of GHG reporting. We have a small number of staff managing the emission reporting with few challenges, but we are still doing a comprehensive job.

3.5 Zimbabwe

Mr. Milward Kuona's presented Zimbabwe's institutional arrangements for transparency, and its lessons learned from implementing at national level. He explained that Zimbabwe submitted its NC4 and BUR1 in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Additionally, Zimbabwe

submitted its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2020, consisting of 17 mitigation projects across the 4 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sectors and four adaptation initiatives.

He then mentioned that the country requires more technical and institutional capacities to fulfil the requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Zimbabwe successfully applied for funding to implement its CBIT project and received the funding through UNEP. The Project is titled “Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Zimbabwe to Comply with the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement” and will be implemented from 2022 to 2024. The country faces challenges of limited local expertise, lengthy procurement procedures and limited financial resources for certain activities.

He then indicated that the country gets the data from the private sector, associations, and Ministry Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as intermediary data providers, such as the Ministry of Agric, ZERA, and Local Authorities. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCU) was established within the Climate Change Management Department (CCMD) by assigning responsibilities to existing officers within the department and is being coordinated by the CCMD Directorate.

Activity data flows directly from the primary data provider/ intermediary to CCMD-CTCU. Data security issues are critical to ensure confidentiality, accountability, accuracy, and transparency. CTCU is central in ensuring transparency, data provider confidence, accurate reporting and coordination of data flow, reporting to UNFCCC and in-country processes, providing feedback, and building the capacity of data providers and inventory compilers,



Photo c: Presentation session for Zimbabwe.

including awareness. CTCU will manage the database and an Online Climate Transparency Portal to share important climate change products (information, trends, target policies, strategies, success stories, etc.). The interactions and photos taken during the session are presented in Table 6 and Photo 6.

Table c: Interactions, questions, and answers from Zimbabwe's presentation

Questions	Responses and comments
<i>Does a Climate Change Bill intend to establish separate Institutional Arrangements?</i>	- The CTCU is within the climate change management, and the bill identified it as such; it will undertake GHG reporting and inventory compilation.
<i>What are the sectors and key categories targeted?</i>	- The AFOLU sector and daily sectors are organized in terms of data.
<i>How are you going to look at all scenarios in the NDC?</i>	- The country has done some scenarios for sectors included in the revised NDC.
<i>Is the data-sharing agreement going to target the departments or private institutions?</i>	- The country has MOUs, which are more flexible, and MOAs are for private sectors.
<i>Are you developing the models using internal experts, or will you hire a service provider?</i>	- The department is using consultants, and they need to be managed to avoid the reputation of work.

3.5.1. Lessons learned by other countries from Zimbabwe's presentation.

The three countries, South Africa, Malawi and Sierra Leone, documented the lessons learned from Zimbabwe's presentation.

The key highlights were the development of regulations, gender integration, partnerships with other institutions, and the use of models for projections. These lessons from each country were pinned on the wall. Detailed lessons learned for each country are presented in Table 7 and Photo 7.



Photo 7: Lessons from Zimbabwe's presentation.

Table 7: Lessons Learned from Zimbabwe's Presentation

Country	Lessons learned from Zimbabwe's presentation
Malawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnering with other institutions is good in terms of QA C QC 2. Models are suitable for planning different scenarios.
South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider gender in the workplace. 2. Establish working groups to identify indicators. 3. Develop an online tool for the preparation of the BTR.
Sierra Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a reporting regulation (while they await the Climate Change bill). 2. Improved compliance from companies over the years (from about 100 to about 400). 3. Improved collaboration working with research institutions for Agriculture emission factor and GIZ for energy EF. 4. Have a wealth of experience in the delivery/implementation of their improvement plans.

Country	Lessons learned from Zimbabwe's presentation
	5. Sub-national and national data collection systems are in place. 6. The government does not host the MRV platform. 7. Have a data security plan in place. 8. Data collection tools were developed for all sectors. 9. Capacity development for sectoral MRV experts.

3.6 CBIT-GSP examples of institutional arrangements from other countries

Ms. Kiconco presented examples of lessons learned from other countries on institutional arrangements. She mentioned that robust institutional arrangements enable countries to provide a reliable, consistent flow of data and information. She noted that countries should understand that the quality of reports is expected to improve continuously, and that decision-makers should be equipped with the evidence they need to choose the right course of action and secure investments. She mentioned the different benefits and key components of institutional arrangements.

Reporting on institutional arrangements under the ETF was emphasized as very important to show how a range of stakeholders come together and work together across transparency themes. She demonstrated what efforts are being made to enhance the sustainability of institutional arrangements and how institutional arrangements are embedded in or interact with core national strategy development and implementation functions. She highlighted different steps that need to be followed when countries want to update their institutional arrangements. She also explained the requirements for institutional arrangements in different chapters of the first BTR.

3.7 Sierra Leone

Mr. Tamba Nyaka gave an overview of the country profile, its CBIT project, and the lessons learned. He highlighted the objectives of the CBIT project in Sierra Leone, which is to build and strengthen Sierra Leone's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Climate Agreement. He indicated that the country has submitted its 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Communications to the UNFCCC and is in the process of submitting its 1st BUR and developing the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for the 1st BTR. He highlighted the institutional arrangements, roles, and responsibilities for BUR development.

It was explained that the country is experiencing challenges such as inadequate local expertise, especially for MRV, inadequate gender mainstreaming, ineffective information flow from sectoral focal points, frequent personnel turnover and cumbersome procurement processes. He mentioned that the country will partner with other institutions/countries for a pool of experts, increase engagement with the National Public Procurement Authority, and organise one training for sectoral focal points. It will also continue to encourage partner institutions, including MDAs, the private sector and CSOs and promote gender balance in

the project implementation. The country is finalizing its online NDC platform. Interactions, questions, and answers from Sierra Leone's presentation are summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Interactions, questions, and answers from Sierra Leone's presentation

Question	Responses and comments
<i>Are the focal points separate teams, or do they fall under the GHG team?</i>	They are like a technical working group team.
<i>Where do you get the data for IPPU?</i>	There are focal points that are responsible for providing the department with data. Companies are required to report their emissions to the department.
<i>Do you foresee the system as being an internal platform?</i>	It will be accessible to everyone but won't allow the public to edit.
<i>What do you consider as your biggest achievement in engaging the youth?</i>	Achievement on educational material they are providing to schools. Children will be able to learn more about climate change early on.
<i>Do you have municipalities or provinces in your structure?</i>	We are working with the provinces to develop the structure, and now the department wants to establish the one for primary schools. The department was providing climate change material to high schools. Now, they want to deliver materials to primary schools so that children will learn about climate change from primary school.
<i>What are the challenges you face when working with Gender Action Plan (GAP)?</i>	Equal access for both women and men. The department brings all focal points and looks at all indicators. For example, in the energy sector, the department wants to know the number of girls in high school who will be part of the energy indicator because the indicator must match what the department is trying to achieve. The department has the Gender Empowerment Act, which states that 30% of participants must be women in all activities in the region. There are no more women who are exposed to the climate change work. The country is expecting to have more women's involvement in the future.
<i>What kind of support does the country need, and how will the government build the capacity?</i>	That's an important issue as the country will develop the first BTR, and the government does not have more experts, which is a big challenge. That's the reason why the CBIT project has been extended.

3.7.1 Lessons learned by other countries from Sierra Leone's presentation.

The three countries, South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe, documented the lessons learned from Sierra Leone's presentation. The key highlights were developing awareness materials on climate change for educational institutions, establishing a functional MRV and gender integration, among others. These lessons from each country were pinned on the wall. Detailed lessons learned for each country are presented in Table 9 and Photo 8.



Photo 8: Lessons from Sierra Leone's presentation.

Table S: Lessons Learned from Sierra Leone's Presentation

Country	Lessons learned from Sierra Leone's presentation
Zimbabwe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sector focal points are important for data collection. 2. It is essential to have clear gender-related indicators. 3. Raising awareness of climate change issues in school children is important ("catching them young").
South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender mainstreaming: The project is gender-balanced, and women are engaged in community events in the implementation of the gender-sensitive plan. 2. The work with UNEP-CCC to build a pool of experts on MRV. 3. Educational material provided to schools.
Malawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Countries need to develop a civil society communication strategy. 2. There is a need to have a Gender Act.

3.8. Malawi

Ms. Hannah shared Malawi's experience on how its CBIT project synergizes with other UNFCCC processes and policy documents such as NDC and NAP, She mentioned the objective of the CBIT project, which is to strengthen the capacity of institutions in Malawi and to set up an information system to fulfil the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. Explanation was given that Malawi's NDC contains both pledges on adaptation and mitigation actions to be implemented from 2015 to 2040, some with domestic support and others needing external financial and technical support (see Photo 9). She mentioned that these aim to reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience to contribute towards sustainable development, food security and poverty eradication. The development of an MRV system under the CBIT project will help track the implementation of the country's NDC. She further



Photo 9: Hannah from Malawi presenting during the session.

highlighted that Malawi's institutions need to collaborate to track and report GHG emissions, climate actions and support needed and received.

The country is developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to advance adaptation efforts in the medium and long term to ensure resilience to climate change. Additionally, the country developed a NAP road map, finalized the NAP Stock-taking report, and received \$2.8 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in March 2019 for the NAP development. The National Climate Change Investment Plan (NCCIP) (2014) prioritizes climate change actions on adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, capacity building, research, and education that the country needs to advance. The NCCIP has provided an estimated budget for implementing these actions. Questions and responses from the presentation are in Table 10.

Table 10: Interactions, questions, and answers from Malawi's presentation

Questions	Responses and comments
<i>Who coordinates data providers who are responsible for uploading data?</i>	The department will have a system administrator. They have identified people who will have the right to upload data. The public can access data but won't be able to edit anything in the system.
<i>Who coordinates the climate change work? Environmental Affairs?</i>	The Department of Environmental Affairs

4. Developing a priority list from the key lessons by countries

In this session, all countries developed country-specific strategies for strengthening collaboration synergies and sharing expertise among African countries in the ETF. Based on lessons learned picked from countries, they reflected on how they would be able to implement or undertake these lessons under the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement. The selection of appropriate strategies was based on countries' institutional arrangements, policies, capacity available in their countries and the available resources. They conducted this activity through cross-learning (participants co-presenting on the same issue) and joint presentations among countries (see Photo 10).



Photo 10: Photo for cross-learning and joint learning sessions by countries.

4.1 Prioritizing activities to be implemented in 2024.

Countries considered realistic strategic approaches for implementing the lessons learnt from other countries, and each country was able to prioritize three activities. The prioritization was based on the key requirements of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement. Countries identified priority activities that can be implemented at the national level, activities for peer learning from each other, and activities for capacity building and training. Countries also identified activities on specific topics that can be implemented in the short term through technical webinars and virtual workshops, facilitated by CBIT-GSP.



Photo 11: Photos of the prioritization session, countries discussing.

As a last step, countries also identify joint activities, such as enhancing the capacity of countries in the CBIT project cycle, including elaborating the requirements of the terminal evaluation and CBIT phase two for countries implementing phase one.

For the next steps, countries will implement the identified three activities by December 2024; the activities were carefully selected based on the ongoing initiatives, available

capacity, and resources at the national level. The implementation arrangement and approach of the three identified activities are well elaborated in Table 11. The responsibility for implementation is on the CBIT focal point for each country, and periodically, countries will hold regular virtual follow-up meetings to share how they are progressing on implementing the three activities. The country-specific priorities for 2024 are presented in Table 11.

Table 11 Country-specific priorities and approaches for implementation in 2024

Country	Priority Activities for 2024
South Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish relevant technical working groups/task forces. e.g. NDC tracking. 2. South Africa wants to establish and regularly convene a task force (including academia and research) as well as develop educational materials on climate change. 3. Build a database of experts on transparency: Identification of experts (new and old), Training of experts and updating of roster of experts. 4. Collaboration with other countries to strengthen the draft Gender Action Plan. This will involve reviewing other Gender Action Plans and gender-related plans/policies, Improving the draft Gender Action Plan for climate change and collaborating with Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone.
Zimbabwe	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and formalize focal points and conduct capacity building. This will involve limited resources for capacity building, synergy, and collaboration (data and tools) within identified institutions. 2. Conduct capacity building for Climate Transparency and Compliance Unit (CTCU) on inventory compilation and other transparency matters (MPGs). This will involve capacity building on MPGs, NDCs, lobby for recruitment of systems administrator, capacity building for the systems administrator and collaboration with SA's GHG inventory management system team and NC5/BTR1. 3. Scoping exercise on the reports relevant to GHG inventory compilation. This will involve Collaborate with CBIT-GSP (Engage a local consultant to undertake the exercise) 4. Alignment of ETF reporting elements, including data security. 5. Operationalization of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) (long-term) 6. Educational awareness targeting school Children.

Country	Priority Activities for 2024
Sierra Leone	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a functional GHG inventory management system. This will involve recruiting a systems administrator and IPCC sector expert, developing the capacity of data providers, developing GHG inventory data collection tools, developing a GHG inventory database and organising collaboration training, SL-SA, through CBIT-GSP. 2. Develop a (Transparency MRV) Framework. This will involve developing data collection tools for NDC tracking and Establishing technical Working groups. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop data collection tools for NDC tracking, inventory compilation and tracking support. 3. Establish climate-CSO platforms to enhance reporting under the ETF. This will involve identifying CSOs that are implementing mitigation/adaptation projects (actions) and establishing a network for supporting reporting under the ETF. 4. Establish Technical Working Groups. 5. Identify partners for developing country-specific emission factors and other transparency deliverables. 6. Develop GHG mitigation scenario projections. 7. Recruit experts for each IPCC sector. 8. Develop a reporting regulation (long-term) 9. Review EIA guidelines to integrate adaptation and mitigation elements and provide training for data providers. (long-term)
Malawi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training data providers on specific data needs. This will involve training on the use of the tools and developing tools for GHG data collection. 2. Develop a GHG improvement plan and report it in the BTR. This will involve reviewing the gaps in the 4th NC., reviewing the recommendations from the Technical Summary Report from BUR1) and South Africa will organize an hour-long session on the development of the GHG plan. 3. Develop a private sector engagement strategy. 4. Identification and collaboration with partners for QA and QC of GHG inventories. 5. Training data providers on specific data needs. 6. Ensure the current climate change Bill incorporates transparency elements. 7. Develop a climate change Gender Action Plan (GAP)

Conclusion

The peer learning was able to achieve its intended objectives of sharing good practices among countries and providing technical insights on their GHG inventory systems, specifically on how the systems can be operationalized in institutions at the national level.

The major output from the peer learning was a list of priority activities for implementation agreed by countries to execute by December 2024. Among other activities, countries would like to enhance their capacity on the CBIT project cycle, including elaborating on the requirements of the terminal evaluation and CBIT phase two.

Countries were able to share best practices and technical insights on the functionality of GHG inventory and how the inventories can be operationalised in institutions of CBIT projects in Anglophone African countries. Most countries learned that they need to enhance their capacities in GHG inventories, develop GHG mitigation scenarios, develop GHG improvement plans, and conduct scoping exercises for GHG inventory compilation.

Countries shared challenges and constraints in the implementation of the CBIT projects and were able to identify strategies for fast-tracking activities that are lagging on their national CBIT projects. The main strategies agreed upon were to work closely with consultants and inform UNEP, the GEF implementing agency, about new timelines for activities whose schedules have been adjusted.

Countries identified opportunities to strengthen further in-country capacities and collaborations and synergise among themselves to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) provisions under the Paris Agreement. Specifically, countries agreed to learn from each other how to implement gender elements for integration in the ETF reporting. Countries also agreed to link their technical expert teams with South Africa's GHG inventory. Countries agreed that they would start with online country exchanges, and when funds are available, they could host in-country trainings. CBIT-GSP will support the coordination of these exchange activities.

Countries also identified long-term activities to strengthen collaboration between CBIT and other initiatives/projects, such as Enabling Activities for the preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs). They agreed that simple tools and studies could be shared among the countries for benchmarking and learning for countries. Documents such as policies and regulations, among others, can also be shared.

This peer learning utilised learning approaches to enhance the sharing of information and exchange of knowledge and experiences among countries, thereby facilitating a learning process. CBIT-GSP facilitated the learning sessions with various interventions and approaches. During the training, UNEP also elaborated on the project management elements necessary to implement CBIT national projects effectively in different countries.

Annex I: Agenda

Time	Activity	Responsible
Day1: 26 February 2024		
08:30 - 09:00	Participant Registration and room setup	The Host CBIT-Zimbabwe
09:00 - 09:10	Self-introduction	All
09:10 - 09:20	Welcome and Opening remarks	Representative from Zimbabwe UNEP, CBIT GSP
09:20 - 09:30	Presentation: Objectives of the peer learning	UNEP
09:30 - 10:00	Presentation: Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Modalities, Procedures, and Guidelines (MPGs) under the Paris Agreement	CBIT-GSP
10:00- 10:20	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	
10:20- 10:30	Tea Break	All
10:30 - 11:30	Presentation: Share best practices and technical insights on the functionality of GHGI and how South Africa was able to operationalize the GHG inventory process in institutions.	South Africa
11:30 - 12:00	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	
12:00 - 12:40	Presentation: Share best practices and technical insights on the development of the online MRV system in Malawi.	Malawi
12:40 - 13:00	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	All
14:00 - 15:30	Presentation: Transparency institutional arrangements, examples, and lessons learned from Zimbabwe.	Milward G Kuona Zimbabwe
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	All
16:00 - 16:30	Presentation: Lessons learned on institutional arrangements from other countries	CBIT-GSP
Day 2: 27 February 2024		
09:00 - 10:00	Summary of key learning points	CBIT-GSP
9:15 - 09:45	Presentation: Share challenges and constraints in the implementation of the CBIT national project	Sierra Leone
10:00 - 10:20	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	All
10:20- 10:40	Tea Break	All

Time	Activity	Responsible
10:40 - 11:30	Presentation: Available opportunities to strengthen further in-country capacities to implement the provisions of ETF under the Paris Agreement	UNEP
11:30 - 13:00	Fishbowl presentation: on the opportunities in-country capacities to implement the provisions of ETF under the Paris Agreement	All
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	All
14:00 - 15:00	Presentation: Support to developing countries through the CBIT Global Support Programme and QCA	CBIT-GSP
15:00 - 17:00	Exposure Visit: Participating countries will have an opportunity to visit the site in Zimbabwe	All
Day 3: 28 February 2024		
09:00 - 10:00	Reflections on the two days: Key lessons and take ways for each country	All
10:00- 10:30	Tea Break	All
10:30 - 11:00	Presentation: Sharing experiences on how CBIT projects are synergizing with other UNFCCC processes, NDCs, NAPs, and NCs.	Malawi
11:00 - 11:20	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	All
11:20 - 12:30	Presentation: The role of institutional arrangements under the ETF, examples, and lessons learned from other countries.	CBIT-GSP
12:30 - 13:00	<i>Interaction and Q&A session</i>	All
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	All
14:00 - 15:00	Group work: Developing a road map for strengthening collaboration synergies and sharing expertise among African countries in ETF.	All
15:00 - 16:00	Presentation and discussion of the road map for strengthening collaboration synergies and sharing expertise	All
16:00 - 16:30	Closing Remarks	UNEP

Annex II: List of participants

ID	Name	Designation	Institution	Country	Gender	Email
1	Tatenda Mutasa	Principal Climate Change Scientist-ACE National Focal Point	Climate Change Management Department	Zimbabwe	Male	tmutasa09@gmail.com
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