

# Reviewer Experience

**Session IV: Technical Expert Review and Support Available**

**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on GHG Inventories in Asia**  
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# Introduction

- ◆ This presentation aims to help colleagues from WGIA member countries to prepare for the technical expert review (TER) of the first biennial transparency report (BTR1) under the Paris Agreement by providing advice based on my experiences gained:
  - mainly through the TER of Guyana's BTR1; and
  - also through various similar processes in the past under the UNFCCC (e.g., technical analysis of biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties, technical review of national GHG inventories from Annex I Parties, etc.)
- ◆ Guyana's cases are referred to in this presentation, but they are just as examples. This presentation does never intend to examine or assess Guyana's BTR1.

# **Overview of TER for Guyana**

# TER of Guyana's BTR1 – Scope

## ◆ Information reviewed:

- National GHG inventory
- Information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4

## ◆ Information reported in BTR1 but not reviewed:

- Information related to climate change impacts and adaptation
- Information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity building support received

Guyana did not request for review.  
(See Decision 9/CMA.4)

## ◆ Technical analysis of information on results-based payments for REDD+ actions (contained in technical annex to BTR1) was conducted concurrently with the TER

- ✓ This was NOT as part of TER, but closely associated with review of LULUCF sector in the national GHG inventory).

# TER of Guyana's BTR1 – Process

Phase	Planned schedule		Note
<b>Before the Review Week</b>	By 22 July	TER team composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Q&amp;As were communicated through an on-line platform where all the exchanged information is recorded.</li> <li>➤ It continued even after the deadlines as deemed necessary.</li> </ul>
	By 2 September	Preliminary questions from TER team to Guyana	
	By 23 September	Answers by Guyana to the preliminary questions	
<b>During the Review Week</b>	30 September – 4 October	<b>In-country review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Q&amp;As and intensive discussion were done in person (not necessarily through the on-line platform)</li> </ul>
<b>After the Review Week</b>	By 3 December	Draft TER report from TER team to Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Due to various unexpected reasons, the process delayed.</li> <li>➤ The TER report was finally published on 19 June (= just two days before the 1<sup>st</sup> facilitative multilateral consideration of progress (FMCP))!!!</li> </ul>
	By 3 March	Comments by Guyana on the draft report	
	By 2 April	Finalization and publication of TER report	

# TER of Guyana's BTR1 – Results

- ◆ TER Report and its addendum were published on 19 June 2025.
  - TER Report <https://unfccc.int/documents/647938>
  - Addendum (“**Areas of Improvement**” and “**Capacity-Building Needs**”)  
<https://unfccc.int/documents/647937>

Number of areas of improvement		
General reporting provisions		1
Greenhouse gas emissions and removals (National GHG inventory)	General	6
	Energy sector	3
	IPPU sector	1
	Agriculture sector	2
	LULUCF sector	10
	Waste sector	2
Information necessary to track progress in implementing and achieving the NDC		20

# **Advice from reviewer's perspective**



# Familiarize yourself with MPG reporting requirements

- ◆ TER team is to check whether each of the reporting requirements in the MPG (Annex to Decision 18/CMA.1) is met.

Table 1

Information reported in Guyana's national inventory report and review of consistency with the modalities, procedures and guidelines

<i>Element</i>	<i>Elements of information to be reported</i>	<i>Summary of information reported</i>	<i>ID#(s) for the area(s) of improvement identified<sup>a</sup></i>
Submission type ( <u>para. 12 of the MPGs</u> )	Has the national inventory report been submitted as a stand-alone document?	No	No areas of improvement were identified
Time series ( <u>paras. 57–58 of the MPGs</u> )	What years have been reported and is the time series in accordance with the MPGs?	1990–2022, in accordance with the MPGs	No areas of improvement were identified
Metrics ( <u>para. 37 of the MPGs</u> )	Has the Party used the 100-year global warming potential values from the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC?	Yes	No areas of improvement were identified
	Has the Party used other metrics?	No	No areas of improvement were identified
Gases ( <u>paras. 47–49 and 51 of the MPGs</u> )	Which gases have been reported? <sup>b</sup>	CO <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	1.1, 4.I.1
Indirect emissions ( <u>para. 52 of the MPGs</u> )	Has the Party reported indirect CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and national totals with and without indirect CO <sub>2</sub> ?	No	No areas of improvement were identified



# Familiarize yourself with MPG reporting requirements

- ◆ Therefore, questions from them are associated with one or some of the MPG reporting requirements. To better understand their questions, you need to be familiar with the MPG.
  - ✓ Be aware of the difference among “**shall**”, “**should**” and “**may**”.
    - Failure to meet a “shall” requirement leads to “recommendation”.
    - Failure to meet a “should” or “may” requirement leads to “encouragement”.
  - ✓ Be mindful of “**flexibility**” provisions.

# Clearly explain the application of a flexibility

- ◆ “Flexibility” provisions are important for developing country parties. Nevertheless, it seems they are not well understood yet...

6. The application of a **flexibility** provided for in the provisions of these MPGs for those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities is to be self-determined. The developing country Party shall clearly indicate the provision to which flexibility is applied, concisely clarify capacity constraints, noting that some constraints may be relevant to several provisions, and provide self-determined estimated time frames for improvements in relation to those capacity constraints. When a developing country Party applies flexibility provided for in these MPGs, the technical expert review teams shall not review the Party's determination to apply such flexibility or whether the Party possesses the capacity to implement that specific provision without flexibility.

(Paragraph 6 of the MPG)

## ◆ “Flexibility” lowers the hurdle to meet reporting requirements.

48. Each Party shall report seven gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>)); those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities with respect to this provision have the flexibility to instead report at least three gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O) as well as any of the additional four gases (HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub>) that are included in the Party's NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, are covered by an activity under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, or have been previously reported.

- ◆ In case it is not yet possible for your country to estimate and report HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub>, and NF<sub>3</sub>...
  - ❑ If a flexibility was not provided for in this paragraph, your country would not be able to meet this MPG reporting requirement.
  - ❑ By duly applying the flexibility, your country can meet this MPG requirement.

- ◆ Where necessary, duly apply the flexibility and clearly explain the following in the BTR (NID) in accordance with paragraph 6 of the MPG.
  - ✓ Which paragraph (provision) of MPG was the flexibility applied?
  - ✓ Why? (= clarify capacity constraints)
  - ✓ By when those capacity constraints will be resolved?
- ◆ Without clear explanation of them in the BTR (NID), technical expert reviewers cannot be convinced that the flexibility was duly applied by the Party. They have to conclude the reporting requirement is not met.

- Technical expert reviewers shall not review the Party's determination to apply such flexibility or whether the Party possesses the capacity to implement that specific provision without flexibility.
- However, technical expert reviewers must check the application of a flexibility is clearly explained in the BTR (NID) in accordance with the MPG.

◆ **Get ready for questions about application of “flexibility”!!!**

Table 1

## Areas of improvement relating to general reporting provisions

## Guyana's case

ID#	Reporting requirement	Description of area of improvement with recommendation or encouragement
1.1	Specified in paragraph 6 of the MPGs	<p>The TERT identified during the review that Guyana applied flexibility in reporting information on the GHG inventory and on tracking progress in implementing and achieving its NDC under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, but that the Party's use of flexibility was not transparently reported in the BTR. In particular, <u>Guyana reported in the BTR that its national GHG inventory covers seven GHGs, namely CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub>, and reported "NE" for HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub> without mentioning whether the flexibility provided in paragraph 48 of the MPGs was applied. However, "FX" was reported for HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub> and NF<sub>3</sub> in the CRTs. No information required by paragraph 6 of the MPGs was provided in the BTR or in the CRTs. Similarly, Guyana reported emission reduction estimates for most PaMs as required by paragraph 85 of the MPGs in</u></p> <p>.....</p> <p>The TERT recommends that the Party clearly indicate its application of flexibility and the relevant provisions of the MPGs for reporting information on the GHG inventory and tracking progress of its NDC; concisely clarify capacity constraints, noting that some constraints may be relevant to several provisions; and provide self-determined estimated time frames for improvements in relation to those capacity constraints.</p>

(From the Addendum to  
TER Report for Guyana)

# Imagine what reviewers want to know, and prepare

Mutual Learning sessions in WGIA are helpful in this context!!

- ◆ Do you think technical expert reviewers can easily find information relevant to each reporting requirement in the BTR (NID)?
  - BTR (NID) is voluminous.
  - Time available for technical expert reviewers is limited.
  - Relevant information may be scattered in the BTR (NID).
- ➔ Reviewers may ask you where in the BTR (NID) they should look into with regard to each reporting requirement. Be prepared for that.
- ◆ Reviewers may well request for background data/information used to prepare the national GHG inventory.
  - ➔ Get ready to meet such requests – e.g., be prepared to show them spreadsheets used for KCA, etc.



# Enjoy dialogue with reviewers

## Rest assured:

- ◆ Technical expert review will be implemented in a facilitative, non-intrusive, non-punitive manner, respectful of national sovereignty, and will avoid placing undue burden on Parties.
- ◆ Rest assured that technical expert reviewers are not allowed to:
  - ✓ Make political judgments;
  - ✓ Review the adequacy of a Party's domestic actions;
  - ✓ For those developing country Parties that need flexibility in the light of their capacities, review the Party's determination to apply flexibility that has been provided for in these MPGs, including the self-determined estimated time frames referred to in paragraph 6 of MPGs, or whether a developing country Party possesses the capacity to implement that specific provision without flexibility.
- ◆ Confidential information will be protected.



# Enjoy dialogue with reviewers

- ◆ Technical expert review is a golden opportunity to find ways to improve your BTR (including national GHG inventory) in consultation with technical expert reviewers.
- ◆ Enjoy and take advantage of this opportunity, particularly free conversation with technical expert reviewers (off the record)!!

*“What came out of the in-country review process was invaluable for Guyana – it enabled us to start thinking about ways in which to improve our NDC monitoring and shape plans for the next BTR, as we look not only to improve the monitoring aspect of our system but also to consolidate capacities.”*

Ms. Pradeepa Bholanath,

Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ at Guyana’s Ministry of Natural Resources

(Quoted from an article in the UNFCCC website: “New Era of Climate Transparency Begins at June Climate Meetings”

<https://unfccc.int/news/new-era-of-climate-transparency-begins-at-june-climate-meetings>)

**Thank you very much!**