



Project Implementation Report

(1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023)

Project Title:	Establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana
GEF ID:	10401
UNIDO ID:	190244
GEF Replenishment Cycle:	GEF-7
Country(ies):	Ghana
Region:	AFR - Africa
GEF Focal Area:	Multifocal Area (MFA)
Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Programs¹:	N/A
Stand-alone / Child Project:	Stand-alone
Implementing Department/Division:	TCS/CCM/CER
Co-Implementing Agency:	N/A
Executing Agency(ies):	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation/Environmental Protection Agency
Project Type:	Full-Sized Project (FSP)
Project Duration:	60 months
Extension(s):	
GEF Project Financing:	7,000,000 USD
Agency Fee:	665,000 USD
Co-financing Amount:	81,923,668 USD
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	12/8/2021
UNIDO Approval Date:	12/17/2021
Actual Implementation Start:	12/31/2021
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2023:	864,072 USD
Mid-term Review (MTR) Date:	1/15/2024
Original Project Completion Date:	11/15/2026

¹ Only for **GEF-6 projects**, if applicable

Project Completion Date as reported in FY22:	Click or tap to enter a date. N/A
Current SAP Completion Date:	7/1/2026
Expected Project Completion Date:	11/15/2026
Expected Terminal Evaluation (TE) Date:	6/15/2027
Expected Financial Closure Date:	11/15/2027
UNIDO Project Manager²:	Müge Dolun, Industrial Development Officer

I. Brief description of project and status overview

Project Objective		
<p>i) Project objective: To strengthen the national capacity of Ghana to transition to a circular economy framework that addresses plastic leakage into the country's oceans and waterways, facilitates sustainable plastics management through operationalising the National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP-GPAP) and the National Plastic Management Policy (NPMP); and ultimately ends marine plastic pollution and reduces the unintentional emissions of POPs (u-POPs).</p>		
<p>ii) Core indicators:</p>		
	Project Core Indicators	Expected at CEO Endorsement
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	13,051 tons of marine litter avoided
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	378,410
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	8.92
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Formal: 1,142 (615 Female, 527 Male) Informal: 14,143 (8,932 Female, 5,211 Male)

Baseline
<p>The use of plastic products in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, has been on a steady rise, leading to an equivalent increase in plastic waste. The primary sources of this plastic waste in Ghana are from the industrial, commercial, and municipal sectors. Industrial waste comes from the plastic processing, manufacturing, and packaging industries, while commercial waste is found from various places such as workshops, supermarkets, and wholesalers. An abundance of plastic waste in Ghana's municipal solid waste stream can be attributed to an increase in plastic consumption, with a majority of these wastes being</p>

² Person responsible for report content

sachet water bags, carrier/shopping bags or the under 20 microns plastic bags.

The legal and regulatory framework in Ghana will require amendments and comprehensive review to effectively manage plastic waste and establish a circular economy. Significant challenges remain including the lack of enforcement of waste management regulations, largely due to limited capacity and personnel shortage. Source segregation of plastics from municipal waste at the household level is not practiced in Ghana, making waste management more challenging. Despite having the National Plastic Management Plan (NPMP) in place, the government lacks the capacity to raise awareness, reduce single-use plastic, and create behavioural changes in citizens that would lead to a reduction of plastics waste in the environment.

The plastics recycling sector in Ghana primarily recovers valuable plastics and usually stops at producing plastics flakes or granulates, which are then reprocessed into lower-value plastics or exported. Lack of circular economy standards and regulations prevents these flakes from being used in high-value applications. In addition, lack of governance structure for plastics management results in duplication of efforts among government institutions. Existing pilot projects are insufficiently supported, and the private sector continues to follow a linear economy model, inhibiting the large-scale reduction of marine littering. Despite a few initiatives, there is no significant shift towards a circular economy for plastics.

Furthermore, a lack of a unified communication strategy results in limited public awareness about waste management legislation and a slow change in public attitude towards recycling and repurposing. Stakeholders lack knowledge and understanding about the circular economy, which is a significant barrier to implementation and mainstreaming of circular economy practices in Ghana.

Overall Ratings ³	FY23	FY22
Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Companies/organizations selected to receive grant funding from the project were assessed during the PPG phase for their ability to deliver GEO's. These organizations have facilities that are already operating and generating environmental and social benefits. GEF funding will be used to further scale-up their operations to generate incremental GEO's.

Project activities related to the scale-up and support of pilot projects along the plastic value chain (under Component 2) were started in FY2023, however, due to the lack of concrete progress in execution of activities, especially those related to the scale-up and support provided to pilot projects, there has been no measurable progress made on GEOs in FY2023.

As and when project activities related to pilots are executed in accordance with the endorsed project document, the rating is expected to improve.

In addition, as there are number of other development partners conducting activities related to regulatory and institutional frameworks to support circularity in the plastics sector in Ghana, the project is continuously monitoring and engaging with the other development partners to ensure project activities are synergistic and incremental.

To improve in FY24, the IA recommends the PEE take the following immediate steps:

Recruit the PMU: the recruitment of the PMU is required under the Project Execution Agreement signed in June 2022 and according to the Inception Report Workplan developed by the PEE should have been set-up latest by April 2023. The PMU and its staff will support the execution of activities, particularly those related to Component 2 and the pilot projects that are expected to lead to GEOs.

³ Please refer to the explanatory note at the end of the document and assure that the indicated ratings correspond to the narrative of the report

Implementation Progress (IP) Rating	<i>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<p>Limited implementation progress was made in FY23. While the PEE developed a work plan and associated budget in compliance with the original design of the project following the inception workshop in December 2022, upon acceptance of the work plan and budget by the implementing agency on 14 April 2023 (following the revisions requested by IA on the version submitted on 13 February 2023), the PEE has not undertaken work that was supposed to be initiated and undertaken during the latter half of FY23. As and when project activities are executed in accordance with this approved work plan and budget, the rating is expected to improve.</p> <p>To improve implementation progress in FY24, the IA recommends the PEE take the following immediate steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen the resources dedicated to operationally execute the project: As mentioned above, the recruitment of the PMU is required under the Project Execution Agreement signed in June 2022 and was to be completed by April 2023. Once the PMU is in place, the IA will be able provide direct guidance and capacity building to the staff that will be responsible for overall execution of the project including, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, financial reporting among others. In addition, currently all activities rely on the sign-off of the Special Advisor to the Minister, who has been delegated by MESTI as the Designated Representative for the Executing Arrangement. The PEE would benefit from having alternate MESTI official to able to make daily operational decisions about proceeding with Project activities, considering the significant workload. 2. Revise the Work Plan for FY24: It is recommended that the PEE revise the work plan for the upcoming year taking into account the delays and provide these updated timelines to the project beneficiaries and stakeholders so they are well-informed. 3. Additional stakeholder engagement: The PEE should undertake regular engagement and communication with project stakeholders. Companies that will be receiving grant support from the project will need to be kept informed of timelines for fund disbursement so that they can effectively plan their activities related to the project. 		
Overall Risk Rating	<i>Moderate Risk (M)</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<p>The project carries moderate risk as a large number of development partner projects are also carrying out activities in the plastics and circular economy space. While there are efforts to avoid duplication of project activities, the baseline assumptions used to design the project are shifting as these other projects are implemented at a different speed. Several project activities are likely to be modified to ensure the project activities remain incremental and relevant.</p> <p>A general election is scheduled for December 2024. It is to be closely monitored if the general election would result in change of administration and as a consequence the stated priorities of the current PEE, as the regulatory and institutional frameworks aimed to be established by the project under Component 1 can be impacted by such a change.</p>		

II. Targeted results and progress to-date

Please describe the progress made in achieving the outputs against key performance indicator's targets in the project's **M&E Plan/Log-Frame at the time of CEO Endorsement/Approval**. Please expand the table as needed.

Project Strategy	KPIs/Indicators	Baseline	Target level	Progress in FY23
Component 1 – Establishing an enabling framework for a circular economy in plastics management				
Outcome 1.1: Legal and institutional framework realigned to support a circular economy in the plastics sector under Ghana's National plastics management policy and the NPAP				

Output 1.1.1: Situational analysis: Plastic flows assessed for community-level archetypes	# methodology developed for collection of data in plastic value chains (TCO.3: Number of toolkits and guidelines produced)	No existing methodology for plastic data collection in value chains.	Methodologies developed	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Output 1.1.2: Legal, and institutional capacities for a circular economy in the plastics sector assessed.	# completed assessment reports on legislative and policy initiatives for a circular economy (POL.1: Cumulative number of new or revised policies adopted by policymakers)	Assessments of various plastic and circular economy legal and regulatory initiatives have not taken place	>2 assessment reports completed	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Output 1.1.3: National implementation/actionable plans, and technical guidelines on bottom-up approach to circular economy in plastics and marine litter management developed in close cooperation with NPAP and within the context of the National plastics management policy (NPMP)	# of technical guidelines for ESM of plastic waste developed (TCO.3: Number of toolkits and guidelines produced) # of training workshops held (female/male) (TCO.1: Number of capacity building activities provided)	No technical guidelines or standard operating procedures for incorporating circular economy practices for plastics available	4 technical guidelines developed for ESM of plastics in a circular economy 4 training workshops held (recorded for later online use)	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Output 1.1.4: Responsive policies and regulations amended to institute and operationalise circular economy practices and business models, including green procurement procedures and quality standards	# of policy amendments/policy recommendations (TCO.3: Number of toolkits and guidelines produced, POL.1: Cumulative number of new or revised policies adopted by policymakers)	No specific plastic and circular economy standards in the country	>2 toolkits/guidelines provided >3 policy/strategy revised and updated	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Output 1.1.5: A Secretariat/national commission for plastic pollution established	RRS and Center of Excellence established (GOV.1: Number of institutions established or strengthened) Workplan for new institutions developed and agreed Number of men and women employed at RRS	A formal government organization for supporting a circular plastic economy in Ghana is non-existent	1 institution established 2 workplans developed At least 40% of employees at the RRS are women	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.

Component 2 – Capacity building and pilot projects, including public-private partnerships (PPP), and district and household partnerships, technology transfer using BAT/BEP for a circular economy in plastics management

Outcome 2.1: Capacity built among all relevant stakeholders to ensure integration and mainstreaming of circular economy approaches within plastics management

Output 2.1.1: Stakeholders from the public sector including targeted, municipalities, industrial private sector associations, and public trained on respective policies, regulations and technical guidelines within the NPMP and NPAP National Action Roadmap, including the gender dimension.	% of primary enforcement agencies which have capacity to enforce the respective plastic economy related policies. # of inspections # of people trained on new circular economy related policies and regulations (female/male) (TCO.1: Number of capacity building activities provided)	None	90% of primary enforcement agencies able to enforce plastics and circular economy policies 50 inspections carried out during project >2000 people trained on circular economy policies and regulations (female/male)	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Output 2.1.2: Capacities of private sector strengthened at all stages of the value chain on new responsive regulations, procurement procedures or	# of successfully completed R&D programs	None	>3 R&D programmes completed to support pilot companies	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.

quality standards in view of implementing circular economy practices in the industrial sector	# of innovative products, collection points or business models entering the market		>3 new products/services entering the market	Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Outcome 2.2: Pilot projects and their supporting collection networks implemented to deliver circular economy benefits				
Output 2.2.1: Sustainable financing, business models and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), and district-community partnerships (DCP) developed and applied in the pilots	Number of business models developed (TCO.4: Number of business plans developed) Number of demonstration projects analyzed for economic and environmental efficiency Number of reuse/refill pilot project application received	None	>5 business models for the circular economy developed (at least 2 for reuse/refill projects) >2 financial mechanisms developed >5 pilot project applications received	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Output 2.2.2: Pilot projects for reducing plastics from fossil feedstock implemented	Tons of plastics avoided from fossil feedstock by pilot companies annually due to capacity provided	2 tons 0	493 tons avoided from fossil feedstock >2 new or improved green products	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Output 2.2.3: Pilot projects for reducing plastic leakage into nature implemented	Tons of plastics collected annually by pilot companies	24,398 tons	40,292 tons	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Output 2.2.4: Pilot projects for demonstrating effective after-use plastic economy implemented	Tons of plastic recycled for food-grade plastic materials Tons of plastic recycled for products Tons of plastic recycled for materials	0 tons 15,500 tons 345 tons	9,000 tons 41,555 tons 1,382 tons	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Pilot project workshop held in June 2023 to inform pilot project stakeholders of next steps and project updates about project execution.
Component 3 – Coordination, communication strategy and knowledge management among key partners and stakeholders for achieving Ghana's NPAP-GPAP and NPMPs objectives				
Outcome 3.1: Coordinated action and synergies with key international, regional and national partners and stakeholders ensured to achieve Ghana's NPAP-GPAP and NPMPs objectives				
Output 3.1.1 Enhance continuity of NPAP-GPAP Secretariat in Ghana to improve transparency, accountability and coordination of the various legislative instruments, capacity building efforts and pilot demonstration activities for a circular plastics economy framework	Number of expert groups established Number of reports generated regarding evidence-based policy options CPO1. Global fora/workshops/EGMs organized	2 2	6 Expert/working groups facilitated to drive action across impact areas (policy, financing, innovation, metrics, inclusion, behaviour) 6 policy white papers to be prepared by 6 working groups (one each)	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. NPAP continues to operate and the work plan outlines specific areas of cooperation moving forward. The PEE continues to engage with the international community through the International Negotiating Committee for the Plastics Treaty and is working to coordination development partners operating in the plastics and circular economy space.

		1	6 policy dialogues to introduce and discuss policy papers	
Output 3.1.2 Enhance capacity of RRS for coordination of circular economy and plastics partnerships, cooperation frameworks and agreements within the NPMP implementation objectives.	Number of partnership agreements signed Training curricula developed for national regional and international professionals and private sector (TCO.1: Number of capacity building activities provided)	None	At least 5 partnerships/ cooperation agreements signed At least 100 people trained (50% of whom are women)	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Outcome 3.2: Communication strategy in place to raise awareness about NPAP-GPAP, NPMP and relevant plastic topics				
Output 3.2.1: Communication strategy along the CE perspective developed and implemented to raise awareness on the negative impacts of the plastic pollution on natural environmental systems (including marine litter, POPs, GHG emissions and human health) towards consumers behaviour change	Number of communication strategies developed Number of communications materials (reports, press releases, newspaper articles, radio shows, etc) specifically developed on gender issues in the circular economy	None	One strategy developed >15 communications materials developed	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Outcome 3.3. Knowledge management set up to share project information and knowledge locally, nationally and globally				
Output 3.3.1: Effective knowledge management done through the RRS, NPAP-GPAP, UNDP platform sharing experience, raising awareness, promoting replication and best practices on the national level	documentaries prepared (Video, radio, written) per year Exposure visits organized for partners/ stakeholders	None	Twenty documentaries (Video, radio, written) created At least 20 exposure visits organized to pilot projects and Centre of Excellence project sites	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. The PEE regularly engages stakeholders through the Ghana NPAP Task Forces, Technical Committee and Steering Board.
Output 3.3.2: A knowledge exchange platform to promote national and regional partnerships, to learn from other countries' experiences, and innovation, and share state-of-the-art knowledge products related to circular plastics framework strengthened and disseminated among the GPAP countries, and partners in the region, and other key stakeholders	Number of digital knowledge exchange platforms created or upgraded	No digital platform exists for the RRS UNDP Waste Recovery Platform will be launched in 2021.	At least 1 digital platform created or upgraded	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24.
Component 4 – Monitoring, evaluation, and replication				
Outcome 4.1: Effective and efficient implementation of the project based on GEF and UNIDO requirements				
Output 4.1.1: The project and its activities are monitored and	Annual work plans	None	Annual work plans completed	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan

evaluated on a periodic basis in line with GEF, UNIDO and Government requirements				outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24. Inception workshop was held in December 2022. Inception documents including the work plan for year one of implementation and accompanying procurement plan, inception workshop report and inception report finalized and approved in April 2023.
Output 4.1.2: Project monitoring plan designed and executed	Monitoring and evaluation framework for the project Gender indicator framework for M&E plan developed and adopted	None	Monitoring and evaluation framework designed and deployed 1 gender responsive indicator framework for M&E developed and adopted	Limited progress was made in FY2023. The PEE's work plan outlined activities that would be undertaken in FY24 and the M&E Framework for the project has been developed
Output 4.1.3: Mid-term review and terminal project evaluations conducted	Mid-term review and evaluation completed Terminal evaluation report	None	Midterm evaluation report completed Terminal evaluation report completed (including evaluation on execution of gender action plan and all related gender dimensions)	N/A

III. Project Risk Management

1. Please indicate the overall project-level risks and the related risk management measures: (i) as identified in the CEO Endorsement document, and (ii) progress to-date. Please expand the table as needed.

	(i) Risks at CEO stage	(i) Risk level FY 22	(i) Risk level FY 23	(i) Mitigation measures	(ii) Progress to-date	New defined risk ⁴
1	Impact of climate change	M	M	A major risk related to climate change is flooding of project waste management infrastructure. New infrastructure being developed for the project will be assessed and monitoring for climate risk as outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) of the project found in Annex S.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
2	Inadequate plastic and plastic waste data collection systems may significantly reduce the impact of the legal measures of the Government to regulate circular plastic economy.	M	M	Data collection methodologies will be developed in line with globally accepted practices and use both existing and emerging guidelines, including on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Ghana NPAP Baseline Model was developed and additional support will be provided to ensure data is collected to support the future development of the model and improve accuracy. Capacity building and training will support improved data accuracy.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	

⁴ New risk added in reporting period. Check only if applicable.

3	On the long-term regulatory control of littering at public places will be reduced, consequently release reduction of plastic leakage to the environment will not be achieved.	M	M	Dedicated programs will be organized to facilitate behavioural change of the public and households on littering.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
4	Difficulties in enhancing cohesion and cooperation between government ministries and other stakeholders for the achievement of the NPMP	M	M	Robust engagement conducted through the NPAP platform during the project will ensure stakeholders are able to provide feedback to the government on implementation of the NPMP. The set-up of the RRS will ensure national coordination between government ministries and set-up arrangements for sharing knowledge, information and data about plastics and circular economy.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
5	Municipal government employees /inspectors will not have enough power to issue fines for littering. People will not pay the fines.	M	M	Capacity building and training of enforcement officers will support broader implementation of existing laws and regulations on plastic waste. At the same time, behavioral changes promoted through the project will reduce the amount of plastic waste littering. Support for pilot projects will also improve the collection of plastic waste and scale up critical plastic waste management infrastructure.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
6	Many businesses in the plastic value chain will fail to comply with the new regulatory measures which will make the market environment for plastics challenging and distorted.	L	L	Inspection programs will be undertaken at different sectors of the plastic value chain to assure that businesses comply with the regulatory and inclusiveness requirements.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
7	R&D project results may not fulfill the expectations or regulatory standards.	M	M	One of the catalytic roles of the Center of Excellence will be to facilitate private sector stakeholders to cooperate with research and development organizations and/or Universities prior to and during the R&D programs to minimize failures.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
8	Large scale enterprises have the means to largely monopolize plastic collection and recycling sectors which may create market distortion	L	L	The project plans to assure a fair and equal competition for the medium and small-scale enterprises through partnership agreements along the value chain.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
9	The financial mechanisms developed through the project may not be equally available for all sectors of the plastic value chain	L	L	Lessons learned from the pilot demonstration projects will be used to develop specific financial and protection mechanisms for different value chains. This is why demonstration projects are grouped along their specific target points of the CE.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
10	Transition to circular plastic economy will significantly restructure current business models which may result business closures and increased unemployment	L	L	The project will strengthen plastic collection networks, household participation and recycling sector which require significant skilled human labor. Those who fall off from the linear plastic economy may have places in the increasing plastic collection networks or recycling sector.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	

11	The behavioral change of the public towards using recycled/repurpose articles will be slower than expected.	L	L	New innovative communication strategies would be developed beyond the conventional ones (leaflets, jingles, etc.), like on-line advertisements with opinion leaders, interactive docudrama series, video ads or introduction of a labeling system for recycled articles. Children and women will be particular foci to this end as they have large impact on how families/households behave.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
12	Most of the local recycling initiatives stop at flake or granulates level. These products are generally exported which makes the local plastic recycling value chain vulnerable to international demand of recycled raw materials.	M	M	The project aims to build new business models to produce products from the recycled flakes and/or granulates. This will generate more value addition on the local market and makes this value chain less dependent to international market prices of recycled flakes or granulates.	No adjustment to the risk mitigation measure was required in FY 2023.	
13	Limited resources of the Project Execution Entity to execute the project.	N/A	M	Additional personnel will be brought on board to support the execution of the project through the PEE hiring personnel to staff the PMU.	Terms of Reference for personnel to be hired under the PMU have been developed and cleared by UNIDO.	X
14	A general election is scheduled for December 2024 and could result in change in administration and as a consequence change the priorities of the government.	N/A	M	Bureaucrats within MESTI/EPA must be fully sensitized to the GEF project and capacity building within the PEE must be conducted in order for institutional knowledge to remain.	No progress was made on the risk in FY2023 but work is expected to take place in FY 2024	X
15	Macroeconomic conditions and debt crisis could lead to less co-financing than was anticipated from the PEE.	N/A	H	The PEE had committed co-financing of approximately USD 40 million to the project based on the availability of funds from the plastic levy. The Government is looking at operationalizing an EPR within the country. The Government should earmark funds from these initiatives for continuing work on ensuring plastic waste is effectively managed.	No progress was made on the risk in FY2023 but work is expected to take place in FY 2024	X

2. If the project received a **sub-optimal risk rating (H, S)** in the previous reporting period, please state the **actions taken** since then to mitigate the relevant risks and improve the related risk rating. Please also elaborate on reasons that may have impeded any of the sub-optimal risk ratings from improving in the current reporting cycle; please indicate actions planned for the next reporting cycle to remediate this.

N/A – This is the first year of reporting.

3. Please indicate any implication of the **COVID-19** pandemic on the progress of the project.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has not affected project execution.

4. Please clarify if the project is facing delays and is expected to request an **extension**.

The project is facing some delays. These delays are being monitored by the Implementing Agency and a determination will be made about the request for an extension at the MTR.

Between endorsement of the project by the GEF CEO in December 2021 and the inception workshop held in December 2022, the PEE and the Implementing Agency negotiated the Project Execution Agreement (PEA). The PEA was signed in June 2022. The PEE held internal meetings upon the signature of the PEA to sensitize the PEE staff about the project. An inception workshop for the project was held in December 2022. Based on the inception workshop, the PEE drafted project inception documents including a work plan and accompanying budget and submitted on 14 February 2023. These were approved by the Implementing Agency on 14 April 2023, following several exchanges on recommended improvements to be considered for the draft inception report and workplan. The PEE requested the subsequent tranche of funds to be used for execution of the project activities once the inception report was cleared and the funds were transferred to the PEE in June 2023.

Currently, the PEE and its related agencies and departments are supporting a number of interrelated projects on plastic and circular economy including the World Bank PROBLUE project, GIZ's Go Circular project, UNIDO's Centre of Excellence for the Circular Economy in Ghana project, and the BRS-Norad-1 project. Therefore, there are significant personnel requirements have been placed on the PEE to coordinate all the activities of the GEF project and these technical assistance projects. To improve the project execution modalities and rate of progress during FY24, the IA will work closely with the PEE to capacitate the PMU once it is fully recruited. It is recommended that the PEE develops an updated work plan and related mitigating measures to speed up the project execution in line with the CEO Endorsement document.

5. Please provide the **main findings and recommendations of completed MTR**, and elaborate on any actions taken towards the recommendations included in the report.

N/A

IV. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

1. As part of the requirements for **projects from GEF-6 onwards**, and based on the screening as per the UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures (ESSPP), which category is the project?

Category A project

Category B project

Category C project

(By selecting Category C, I confirm that the E&S risks of the project have not escalated to Category A or B).

Please expand the table as needed.

	E&S risk	Mitigation measures undertaken during the reporting period	Monitoring methods and procedures used in the reporting period
(i) Risks identified in ESMP at time of CEO Endorsement	OS 8: Labor and Working Conditions		
	Piling of waste plastic residues at the pilot sites which creates unsanitary working conditions	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.

Occupational incidents of pilot company staff from on-site activities (operating machines) and off-site activities (transporting materials)	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Inhalation of toxic fumes/emissions from plastic reprocessing and recycling processes	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Impact of noise hazards on operators of shredding machines	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
OS 9: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention		
Microplastic production from processing of plastic materials	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Microplastics from the use of products produced by pilot projects.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Risk of burning of residual waste by pilot projects.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Reintroduction of plastic waste into environment after end of life of plastic products manufactured by pilot companies.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Emissions (greenhouse gases, NOx, SOx, PM2.5) from equipment operation and existing backup energy generators in case of power failures	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
UPOPs emissions during processing and manufacturing.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
Single-use plastics used at Water ATM booths	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
OS 10: Community Health, Safety and Security		
Piling of plastic materials to be processed create unsanitary conditions for nearby communities and	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.

	potential habitat for animals		
	Impacts and hazards associated with construction and operational activities within the community (Noise, occupational incidents involving community, emissions, vehicular accidents and traffic, etc.)	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
	High voltage fluctuations which may cause fire incidents and affect equipment of pilot facilities and local communities	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
	Depletion of groundwater resources.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
	Risk of economic displacement of water retailers (sachet, water bottles, etc.)	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
	Risk of conflicts among Consortium members on issues of common interest which may affect material flow among the members of the consortium	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
	Access to adequate locations for the siting of CREATE Stations	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.	N/A – no aspect of the project relating to this risk has been executed during the reporting period.
(ii) New risks identified during project implementation (if not applicable, please insert 'NA' in each box)	N/A	N/A	N/A

V. Stakeholder Engagement

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on **progress, challenges and outcomes** regarding engagement of stakeholders in the project (based on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent document submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

The Project has undergone its first year of execution and the PEE is creating the foundation for the implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan submitted as part of the CEO Endorsement package. The PEE hosted an inception workshop on the 14 December 2022. The workshop was attended by 104

participants representing various stakeholders along the plastics value chain, including Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipals and District Assemblies (MMDAs), the private sector, UNIDO, GEF, World Bank (WB), National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), informal waste pickers and collectors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media. The PEE held its first Project Steering Committee meeting on 28 April 2023. The PSC membership includes other ministries, a private sector industry association, a development partner and the Ghana NPAP. This broad membership and engagement of different ministries will ensure the project is well known within the public sector and enable broad engagement with ministerial constituents including local government, industry and women and youth.

The PEE also hosted a workshop in June 2023 with stakeholders receiving grant funding from the project to discuss next steps, raise awareness about the project, and obtain feedback from those in attendance. Based on the workshop the PEE will be initiating activities under Component 2 of the project to enable grant funding to be dispersed to the pilot companies in FY2024

The PEE has also undertaken engagements with project stakeholders through the National Plastic Action Partnership, which complements the project. Both IA and PEE staff sit on NPAP Policy Task Force, the Technical Committee and the Steering Board. Through NPAP, the PEE is able to provide updates about the project. These activities of the NPAP are not currently funded by the project but they form an essential part of the overall engagement strategy of the project. As the project activities related to Component 3 are executed by the PEE, the NPAP is expected to play a larger role in the overall communication to and engagement of stakeholders.

2. Please provide any feedback submitted by national counterparts, GEF OFP, co-financiers, and other partners/stakeholders of the project (e.g. private sector, CSOs, NGOs, etc.).

The project was delayed and project stakeholders, especially those that are expected to receive grant funding have expressed concerns about the delay. Pilot companies expected that they would receive their grant funding in 2022. Progress has been made to allay these concerns as demonstrated by the PEE's hosting of a workshop to provide an up-to-date timeline on the start of Component 2 project activities in June 2023.

Project stakeholders have also been engaged bilaterally by the IA, where these concerns were communicated. The IA has communicated project stakeholder concerns to the PEE and encouraged the PEE engage directly with the pilot companies on a regular basis.

When the PEE sets-up the PMU, it is expected that stakeholder engagement will become a core function of the PMU and more regular communication with project stakeholders will occur.

3. Please provide any **relevant stakeholder consultation** documents.

10401_PSC Meeting Minutes

VI. Gender Mainstreaming

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please report on the **progress achieved on implementing gender-responsive measures and using gender-sensitive indicators**, as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval (in the project results framework, gender action plan or equivalent),.

Moderate progress was made during FY2023 on executing gender-responsive measures as outlined in the project's Gender Action Plan. Many of the activities undertaken by the Ghana NPAP's Inclusion Task Force have direct relevance for the project. As the project activities are executed, closer cooperation between the PEE and the NPAP Inclusion Task Force is expected. At the Inception Workshop in December 2022, a specific breakout group was dedicated to discussing how gender and youth entrepreneurial issues be adequately addressed by the project. The PEE is working to further integrate the feedback received during the inception workshop on this particular topic. In addition, the PEE has invited the Ministry of Gender,

Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) as a PSC member which will further support sensitization of the project with the ministry's constituents and support outreach and engagement with women.

VII. Knowledge Management

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please elaborate on any **knowledge management activities / products**, as documented at CEO Endorsement / Approval.

Moderate progress was made during FY2023 on knowledge management as outlined in the CEO Endorsement. Close cooperation between the PEE and the Ghana NPAP has enabled knowledge dissemination on plastics management throughout the country. The Ghana NPAP launched the Plastic Action Initiative Tracker which provides an overview of all plastics initiatives underway in Ghana. Closer cooperation between the Ghana NPAP, UNDP and other project partners is expected as the PEE begins to execute projects activities under Component 3.

2. Please list any **relevant knowledge management mechanisms / tools** that the project has generated.

No knowledge management mechanisms/tools were generated by the project in FY2023.

VIII. Implementation progress

1. Using the previous reporting period as a basis, please provide information on **progress, challenges and outcomes achieved/observed** with regards to project implementation.

Progress

Project Launch and Execution Agreement

The project was publicly launched in June 2022 and a project execution agreement between UNIDO and the PEE was also signed in June 2022.

Inception Workshop

The PEE hosted an inception workshop on the 14 December 2022. The workshop was attended by 104 participants representing various stakeholders along the plastics value chain, including Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Metropolitan, Municipals and District Assemblies (MMDAs), the private sector, UNIDO, GEF, World Bank (WB), National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP), informal waste pickers and collectors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media. Using the inputs from stakeholders, the PEE drafted inception documents including a procurement plan, a work plan, and inception report providing details of terms of reference required for the PMU.

Project Steering Committee meeting

The first PSC meeting was held on the 28 April 2023. The meeting brought together PSC representatives from government ministries and project stakeholders and chaired by the Chief Director of MESTI. During the meeting, the members of the PSC were briefed on their roles and responsibilities as outlined in the Terms of Reference of the PSC and the overall project.

Pilot Company Workshop

Following feedback from pilot companies involved in the project, the PEE hosted a workshop with pilot companies to discuss the project execution, the monitoring and evaluation framework for the project, and financial reporting requirements. Pilot companies made presentations about their projects to build knowledge and awareness of the contributions they would be making to the project and the global environmental benefits.

Challenges

Coordination

The PEE is coordinating a large number of projects in the circular economy and plastics space. Additional human resources are recommended to be brought on board to support coordination efforts.

Limited human resources

The PEE has not yet recruited a PMU to support project execution. The recruitment of the PMU is expected in FY2024. As an HACT assessed entity, PEE has established internal capacities to move the project forward, however these capacities need to be optimally utilized and additional human resources will need to be dedicated to the project execution.

2. Please briefly elaborate on any **minor amendments**⁵ to the approved project that may have been introduced during the implementation period or indicate as not applicable (NA).

Please tick each category for which a change has occurred and provide a description of the change in the related textbox. You may attach supporting documentation, as appropriate.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Results Framework	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Components and Cost	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Institutional and Implementation Arrangements	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Management	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation Schedule	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executing Entity Category	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor Project Objective Change	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safeguards	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk Analysis	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Increase of GEF Project Financing Up to 5%	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Co-Financing	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Project Activities	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others	N/A

3. Please provide progress related to the **financial implementation** of the project.

Following signature of the Project Execution Agreement between UNIDO and MESTI, an initial USD 70,000 was disbursed to MESTI as per Article 10: Disbursements of the PEA in October 2022.

USD 716,665.00 was disbursed in June 2023 following acceptance of the PEE's inception documentation including work plan, budget and procurement plan.

See File: **10401_Cumulative disbursement**

⁵ As described in Annex 9 of the *GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines*, **minor amendments** are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%.

IX. Work Plan and Budget

1. Please provide an **updated project work plan and budget** for the remaining duration of the project, as per last approved project extension. Please expand/modify the table as needed.

Please fill in the below table or make a reference to a file, in case it is submitted as an annex to the report.

See file: **10401_2023 Workplan and Budget**

X. Synergies

1. **Synergies** achieved:

Describe potential synergies arising out of UNIDO internal cooperation and/or cooperation with (external) bilateral and multilateral projects/programmes, if applicable.

UNIDO engages broadly with stakeholders in Ghana to keep them up to date on GEF project progress and inform them of potential areas of cooperation and coordination. In addition to the GEF project, UNIDO is implementing the Centre of Excellence for the Circular Economy project with funding from Global Affairs Canada. The project will work in at least three value chains including Plastics, Textiles and Agriculture and Food Systems to scale-up circular technologies and business models that support Ghana's transition to a circular economy. The Centre of Excellence will also act as a clearinghouse for circular economy knowledge and data in the country and ensure this information is disseminated to stakeholders around the country to further scale-up and replicate proven circular solutions.

As part of UNIDO's ongoing efforts to engage with development partners and international organizations, during a mission in December 2022, UNIDO visited several GEF pilot project locations together with the World Bank PROBLUE mission and found mutual areas of cooperation. Briefings were held with the PROBLUE team to share information about the GEF project activities to avoid duplication of effort.

As a member of the Ghana National Plastic Action Partnership, UNIDO participates in several bodies designed to support decision making on Ghana's Plastic Action Plan. UNIDO sits on the Steering Board of the NPAP, the Technical Committee, Financing Task Force, and Policy Task Force and co-chairs the Innovation Task Force alongside UNDP.

3. **Stories to be shared** (Optional)

N/A

XI. GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate.

Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com>

Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location and Activity Description
Coliba Waste Recycling	N 05.54080°	W 000.22391°		Pilot company
Zoomlion Ghana Ltd IRECOP	N 05.66603°	W 000.07117°		Pilot company
UPPR	N 05.66603°	W 000.07117°		Pilot company
rePATRN Ltd	N 05.68600°	E 000.04461°		Pilot company
Jekora Ventures – Ga Manste Composting Plant	N 05.53492°	W 000.22096°		Pilot company
Pure Home Water – Tamale (Stadium CREATE Station)	N 09.41467°	W 000.86007°		Pilot company
Pure Home Water – Tamale (Sub-metro CREATE Station)	N 09.39891°	W 000.84986°		Pilot company
Pure Home Water – Tamale (Taha Factory)	N 09.43564°	W 000.78833°		Pilot company
Jekora Ventures – New Osu site	N 05.55642°	W 000.18797°		Pilot company
MLarsen Waste Management Limited Headquarters	N 05.57973°	W 000.19488°		Pilot company
Komenda Polymer Recycling Plant Ltd. (KPRPL)	N 05.06782°	W 001.53339°		Pilot company
				Pilot company
Maintenance and Sustainability Africa	N 05.68246°	W 000.19508°		Pilot company
Mckingtorch Africa	N 05.70271°	W 000.14177°		Pilot company
Asase Foundation – CASH IT Recycling Plant	N 05.73703°	W 000.09199°		Pilot company
Sesa Recycling	N 05.66300°	W 000.05142°		Pilot company
City Waste Recycling (CWR) current Office	N 05.68496°	W 000.27269°		Pilot company
City Waste Recycling CWR facility for recycling fridges	N 05.71145°	W 000.28778°		Pilot company
City Waste Recycling (CWR) facility for recycling plastics	N 05.70661°	W 000.28686°		Pilot company
City Waste Recycling (CWR) proposed site for new facility at Teacher Mate	N 05.90754°	W000.39182°		Pilot company
Eco-Solve Innovations Africa Ltd.	N 05.58177°	W 000.21229°		Pilot company
Nelplast Eco Ghana Ltd	N 05.7363856°	W000.0755489°		Pilot company
Davero Ice Limited	N 05.864444°	W000.365000°		Pilot company

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.



EXPLANATORY NOTE

1. **Timing & duration:** Each report covers a twelve-month period, i.e. 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.
2. **Responsibility:** The responsibility for preparing the report lies with the project manager in consultation with the Division Chief and Director.
3. **Evaluation:** For the report to be used effectively as a tool for annual self-evaluation, project counterparts need to be fully involved. The (main) counterpart can provide any additional information considered essential, including a simple rating of project progress.
4. **Results-based management:** The annual project/programme progress reports are required by the RBM programme component focal points to obtain information on outcomes observed.

Global Environmental Objectives (GEOs) / Development Objectives (DOs) ratings	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <u>all</u> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its <u>major</u> global environmental objectives, and yields satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Project is expected to <u>achieve most</u> of its major <u>relevant</u> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modes overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environmental benefits.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Project is expected to achieve <u>some</u> of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <u>achieve only some</u> of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Project is expected <u>not</u> to achieve <u>most</u> of its major global environmental objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <u>any</u> of its major global environmental objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Implementation Progress (IP)	
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of <u>all</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only few that are subject to remedial action.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action.
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of <u>some</u> components is <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action.
Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of <u>most</u> components in <u>not</u> in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of <u>none</u> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Risk ratings	
Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
High Risk (H)	There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
Substantial Risk (S)	There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks.
Moderate Risk (M)	There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk.
Low Risk (L)	There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks.