

Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10635

Countries

Lesotho

Project Name

Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

4/27/2022

Review completed by PM

6/20/2022

Program Manager

Namrata Rastogi

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

PIF □ **CEO Endorsement** □

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, the project remains aligned to the focal areas as presented in the PIF.

Agency Response

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: Yes, this is sufficient.

Agency Response

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description

of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: We note that the co-financing amount has reduced slightly from the PIF stage. The co-financing letter has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response
GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: Yes, the financing presented is adequate. We note that some of the allocations have changed and an explanation has been provided on the modifications made from the PIF stage. The overall amount remains the same. Cleared.

Agency Response
Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: This has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response
Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: This has been provided including an explanation of the core indicators. Cleared.

Agency Response

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, this has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, this has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

5/9/2022: Please address the following comments:

1. Please elaborate on different roles between the existing climate change unit within the LMS, and the newly established CC transparency unit. Will this new transparency unit sit within the existing unit? How will they coordinate?
2. For the CTU, please elaborate further on the rationale for the pilot with two external consultants, and the handover towards the end of the project implementation period. We would suggest considering a different model, possibly one where the CTU identifies climate transparency champions early on within the LMS/CC unit, and builds their capacity throughout the project implementation period. See comment in Budget section on this.
3. Activity 1.1.2: focuses on operationalization of the Climate Change Bill. Please clarify that this would be linked specifically to the transparency provisions as this is a CBIT project.
4. Consider strengthening the engagement with National University of Lesotho -possibly through a formal partnership or/and ongoing engagement (as opposed to ad-hoc, one time trainings). See comment in Budget section below on this.

6/20/2022: We note the clarifications provided - cleared.

Agency Response

07 June 2022

1. Further information has been provided in the Alternative Scenario section concerning the planned functioning and coordination of the Climate Change Unit and the Climate Transparency Unit within LMS. The CTU will sit alongside the existing CCU, under LMS. The CCU will retain technical expertise while the CTU will have a coordinating role. Both units will report to the same director and have regular meetings and exchanges of information. The text for Activity 1.1.4 has been amended accordingly (p.31).

2. Thank you for this suggestion. However, LMS does not currently hold the expertise specified for the CTU roles or the resources to dedicate enough staff time to them. This is way the text has been amended to further elaborate on the rationale for hiring two external consultants for the CTU, and the handover towards the end of the project implementation period (p.31). The handover shall happen during the final 6 to 12 months of project lifespan, which will give LMS enough time to identify and resource permanent experts who will benefit from mentoring from the external consultants.

3. Additional information has been provided on Activity 1.1.2 to reiterate its focus on strengthening national institutional arrangements and data flows for enhanced climate transparency and reporting, in the context of a new Climate Change Bill (p.29).

4. Thank you for this suggestion. Possible forms of engagement with the University of Lesotho have been discussed with LMS, but it was concluded that the currently proposed amount of engagement under Output 1.3 is indeed appropriate considering the level of existing technical expertise at the University. It is thus planned that representatives from the University will be invited to workshops and training sessions and encouraged to give feedback at these events. This consideration has been reflected in section 7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up (p 48).

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided. However, please see comment in the Alternative Scenario section in relation to Activity 1.1.2 and clarify here accordingly.

6/20/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

07 June 2022

Section 4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program strategies has been amended concerning Output 1.1 and Activity 1.1.2 to reiterate its focus on strengthening national institutional arrangements and data flows for enhanced climate transparency and reporting, in the context of a new Climate Change Bill (p.43).

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided.

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, this has been elaborated.

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, this has been provided. However, please see comments in the Alternative Scenario section - and update/align language as needed.

6/20/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

07 June 2022

On Sustainability, additional information has been provided on the exit strategy and the involvement of University of Lesotho in the project with a view to promote future collaboration with the Climate Transparency Unit (p. 47-48).

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This is a national project and a map of Lesotho has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, detailed reports on stakeholders engaged during the design phase has been provided, and a stakeholder engagement documentation has been provided as well. Cleared.

6/27/2022: The project highlights that stakeholder consultation and buy-in is of utmost importance for the sustainability of the project and outlines a number of key stakeholder but provides very limited information on consultations with local communities and civil society actors. It briefly mentions farmer associations and local communities to be engaged in project implementation. Please provide additional information on how these important stakeholders will be consulted and engaged during project implementation.

7/13/2022: This has been provided.

Agency Response

12 July 2022

On Stakeholders, additional information has been provided on the engagement of community groups, local communities and civil society actors (p. 57).

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided. Cleared.

6/27/2022: As the project incorporates gender equality considerations across project components, please indicate or specify that the Gender Action Plan or gender equality considerations will be part of the Monitoring and Evaluation component (Component 2).

7/13/2022: This has been provided.

Agency Response

12 July 2022

The section 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, the section 9. Monitoring and Evaluation and the Annex J have been amended to indicate that the Gender Action Plan will be part of the project's Monitoring and Evaluation component (pages 60; 78; 118).

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided including COVID risk and opportunity analysis.
Cleared.

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been marked as low. Cleared.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Please include the budgeted plan (M&E activities and associated budget) here in the portal.

6/20/2022: Cleared.

7/13/2022: Noted.

Agency Response

12 July 2022

Section 9. Monitoring and Evaluation? and Annex J have been amended to include monitoring of the Gender Action Plan (pages 78; 118).

07 June 2022

The budgeted M&E Plan has been uploaded to the Portal.

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: This has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: For the Budget, please see comments made in the Alternative Scenario, specifically in relation to the Climate Transparency Unit. Adjust the budget as needed. The budget also does not seem to reflect any allocations for the University of Lesotho (and its activities as described in the Alternative Scenario section). Please clarify.

Additionally please specify what is meant by "miscellaneous" under office supplies (#14).

6/20/2022: The clarification has been noted. Cleared.

Agency Response

07 June 2022

Budget amounts remain the same, as justified in response to comments on the Alternative Scenario section regarding the initial operation of the Climate Transparency Unit and the exit strategy for sustainability. Moreover, possible forms of engagement with the University of Lesotho have been discussed with LMS, but it was concluded that the currently proposed amount of engagement under Output 1.3 is indeed appropriate considering the level of existing technical expertise at the University.

Additionally, the wording of the budget line concerning office supplies and ?miscellaneous? has been amended to specify office supplies and printing costs, among other miscellaneous items that may be needed in the daily running of the Project Management Unit (Annex I-1).

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: This has been provided including CBIT indicators. Cleared.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Please note that the Prodoc has not been uploaded to the portal.

6/20/2022: Noted - cleared.

Agency Response

07 June 2022

The PDF version of the CEO Endorsement Request document has been uploaded to the GEF portal.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: Yes, this has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 5/9/2022: A map of Lesotho has been provided. Cleared.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5/9/2022: Please address comments.

6/20/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

6/27/2022: Please address comments highlighted.

7/13/2022: PM recommends clearance.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	5/5/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations