



GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process - Umbrella I

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11839

Countries

Global (Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Eritrea, Ghana, Grenada, Micronesia, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Papua New Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, Gambia, Bahamas)

Project Name

GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process - Umbrella I

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

12/5/2024

Review completed by PM

1/16/2025

Program Manager

Alla Ljungman

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 16, 2025

1) Partially "YES" to the 'GEF-8 Program' and 'Trust Fund' GEF funding element as indicated in Table A. However, the **Total Enabling Activity Cost** seems miscalculated in the 'GEF Financing' element.

2) In the Section 1 'Enabling Activity Summary' table the Expected report Submission to Convention date should be revised to **November 2026**.

Type of Report(s): ⓘ	UNCCD Reporting	Expected Report Submission to Convention: ⓘ	<u>6/30/2027</u>
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3) The Implementing Agency ID # needs to be added.

March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. Total Enabling Activity Costs have been updated to the correct figures.
2. The expected report Submission to Convention date has been updated to 11/30/2026
3. The Implementing agency ID is now included.

Cost Ranges.

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat's CommentsNo, there is no deviation from the agreed cost ranges.

Agency's Comments

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 16, 2025

1) Mostly 'YES', however, 1) it exceeds the 500 word limit (please make sure that there is no repetitions (e.g. the EA objective has been discussed already, etc.); 2) it would be good to mention in the summary how many countries will be supported by this Umbrella project (**39 countries**) to deliver faster and better national reports and specify other differences to the previous Umbrella projects.

2) In the results framework, it would be beneficial to specify activities/options under each output (training on PRAIS, Trends.Earth; capacity building on UNCCD/DLDD/SLM/LDN, reinforcement of CSOs, gender integration, inclusion of the youth, awareness campaign, training on Land-Use planning and LD/LDN, training on drought) that can be adjusted based on countries needs and capacity. Also the gender dimensions in all Outputs should be specified.

March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. Text has been summarised to 500-word limit and number of countries under the umbrella added
2. Activities under each output have been added.

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's CommentsYes.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 16, 2025

Lessons from the previous Umbrella projects would be welcome, especially for the national implementation institutional arrangements. Regional entities are not mentioned in the implementation arrangements, while some of them were instrumental in past exercises: as PISLM in the Caribbean, OSS in Africa, the REC in Caucasus. Please, clarify, and add.

Jan 30, 2025

Provide more information on how they intend to ensure that countries engage with key stakeholders and consult with relevant NGOs/CSOs and interest groups when developing their national reports to the UNCCD.

March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. Regional and national institutions have been included.
2. More information on how countries will engage key stakeholders has been added

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 16, 2025

Yes. However, the budget table would need to be revised to follow changes to the GEF Enabling Activity Financing per country and Agency Fee (Table E.).

Jan 30, 2025

Under M&E, please ensure that gender-specific results are monitored and reported on (how gender is mainstreamed into the national reporting to the UNCCD).

March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. Budget document updated to align with Table E and is now reflecting the enabling activity financing.
2. UNCCD Gender specific indicators and results has been added as part of the indicators for monitoring and reporting.

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

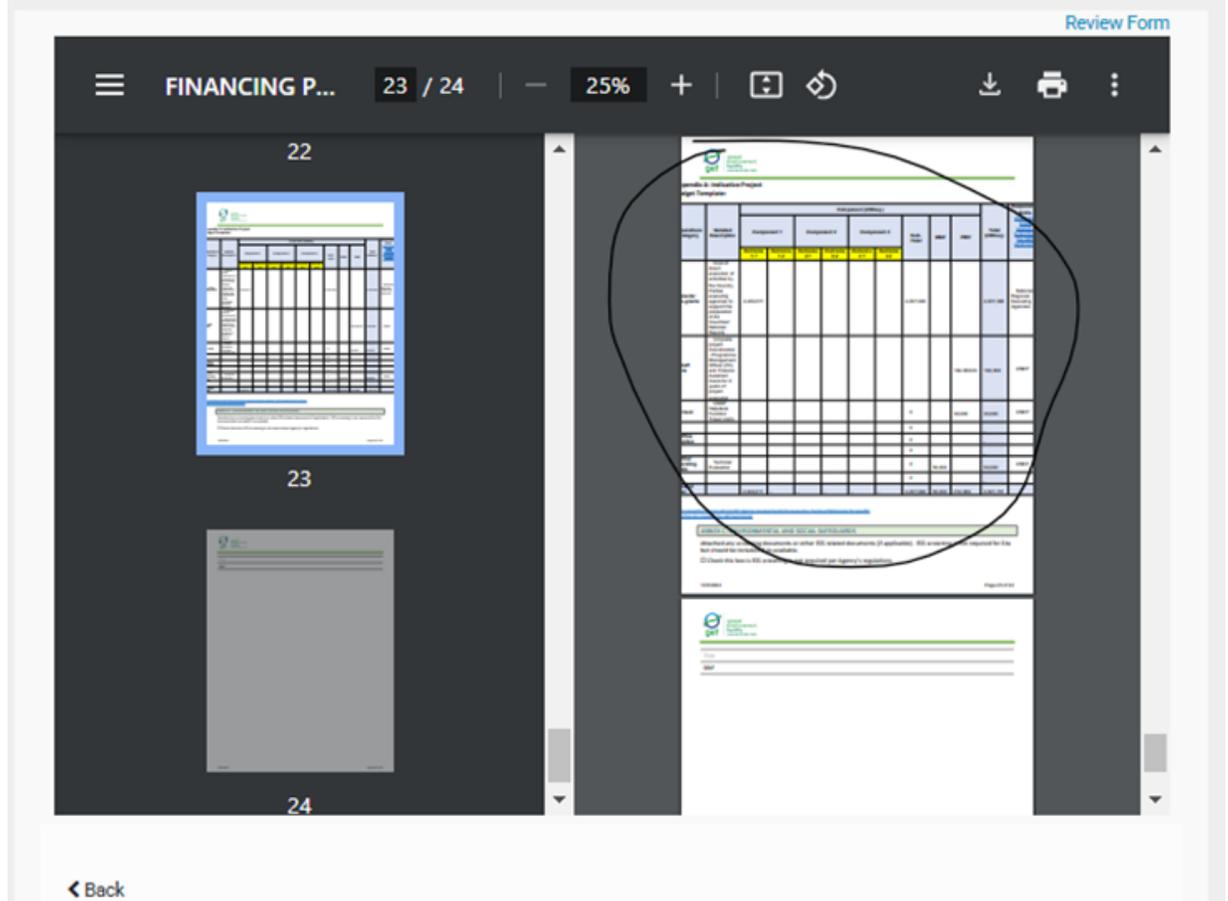
Jan 16, 2024

The GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$) and Agency Fee (\$) amounts as indicated in the Table F. in Section 3 need to be revised in line with the amounts discussed in E. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Section 2, and indicated in the LOEs (\$109,590 + \$10,410 = \$120,000). Please revise the budget in line with the amounts stated in the LoEs.

Jan 30, 2024

1. The first line of the budget makes reference to 44 countries (Annex B), but we have counted 39 countries listed in this Global EA. Please confirm the number of countries and amend where necessary.
2. The Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template show a formatting issue and is incomplete, the expenditure category column and the responsible executing entity column are cut off. Please request the agency to correct this design issue.

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March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency Response

March 06, 2025

1. The budget document updated to reflect the figures in Table F and in line with the figures in the LoEs.
2. Reference to 39 Countries updated in the budget document.
3. Formatting updated and aligned with the GEF portal. Screenshot of the budget in the portal review section:

ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE

Attach the project budget table.

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template:

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)								Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity <small>(Executing Entity, including funds from the GEF Agency)[1]</small>	
		Component 1		Component 2		Component 3		Sub-Total	M&E			PMC
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2					
Grants/ Sub-grants	Costs of direct execution of activities by the Country Parties executing agencies to support the preparation of 39 Countries' National Reports	4,237,382						4,237,382			4,237,382	National or Regional Executing Agencies
Staff costs	Umprella project Coordination - Programme Management Officer (P3) and Finance Assistant Costs for 2 years of project execution									184,702.00	184,702	UNEP
Travel	UNEP National Reporting Helpdesk Function Travel costs							0		28,965	28,965	UNEP
Office Supplies								0			-	
Other Operating Costs	Terminal Evaluation							0	36,662		36,662	UNEP
Grand Total		4,237,382	-	-	-	-	-	4,237,382	36,662	213,667	4,487,711	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 16, 2025

The Umbrella project includes 39 countries. However, only 35 LoEs are provided. There are two LoE for Comoros, apparently one of them for Cook Islands. And there is duplicate LoE Cameroon. There are none for Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti and St. Lucia. Please make sure to include the missing LoEs at resubmission.

Jan 30, 2025

1. The wrong attachment has been linked to Mr. Gnapelet, the document that opens is the LoE from Cameroon. We looked for the LoE from Central African Republic (Country where Mr. Gnapelet is OFP) but we could not find it the documents section of the Portal. Please request the agency to include this letter.
2. The LoE from the Cook Islands is missing key information on the financing table, please request the agency to request a new LoE - the OFP must include the Source of Funds, Agency and Focal Area source data.
3. The LoE from Eswatini is missing the footnote. Please also request the agency to correct the Source of Funds from GEF to GEFTF.
4. Mensur Dessie Nuri is not the OFP from Micronesia, please request the agency to correct the name in the table.
5. The LoE from Grenada is missing the footnote ? please ask the Agency to get an email confirming the acceptance of the footnote (this is an alternative to a new LoE).
6. The LoE from Jamaica is missing the name of the OFP. Please request the agency to provide a letter that includes the name and contact information of Ms. Guthrie.

7. The LoE from Mauritania is missing the footnote related to the confirmation of the executing agency.

8. The LoE from The Gambia is missing the footnote - please ask the Agency to get an email confirming the acceptance of the footnote (this is an alternative to a new LoE).

March 10, 2025: All comments have been addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. All 39 letters of endorsement related to this umbrella project have been updated in the relevant sections.
2. The correct letter of the CAR has been linked to the CAR's OFP Mr Gnapelet.
3. The Cook Islands letter of endorsement has been updated and re-uploaded.
4. The Eswatini LoE with the executing agency footnote has been uploaded.
5. Mensur Dessie Nuri is the Ethiopia OFP linked to the Ethiopia LoE.
6. The Grenada LoE has its footnote included and updated.
7. The updated Jamaica letter of endorsement has been uploaded.
8. The updated letter from Mauritania LoE has been updated.
9. The updated letter from The Gambia now includes a footnote confirmation email from the OFP.

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)

Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments March 10, 2025: All comments have been adequately addressed.

Agency's Comments

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached?
(only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Comments

Jan 30, 2025

1. We note that the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) is attached. The project's risk identified as Moderate. However, the SRIF does not reviewed by the

Safeguard team and no Safeguard review summary and recommendations in the SRIF. Please provide updated SRIF with the Safeguard team review.

March 10, 2025: Addressed.

Agency's Comments

March 06, 2025

1. The project SRIF has been reviewed and identified as a low. The SRIF has also been reviewed by the Safeguards team and signed.

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION.

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

March 10, 2025

All points are addressed. The Umbrella I project is recommended for clearance.

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	1/16/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/30/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/10/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		