

# Mali's Fourth National Communication within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10495

**Countries**

Mali

**Project Name**

Mali's Fourth National Communication within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change

**Agencies**

UNDP

**Date received by PM**

2/25/2020

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Satoshi Yoshida

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

EA

## Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO) ☐

### Part 1: Project Information

#### Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

#### Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

03/05/2020 SY: Yes, it is in line with the enabling activity under the climate change mitigation part of the GEF7.

#### Agency Response

## **Project description summary**

**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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for updating and clarification. With this project GHGI will be compiled on an annual basis and the time gaps will be narrowed as well. Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Yes, it is appropriate in general. Further elaboration and some modifications will be necessary to adequately assess the structure and design of the project.

1. Please further clarify, where applicable, what information will be updated from the third NC or the first BUR, and what information would be collected or developed for this NC from scratch in the section C part II. This is also related to a question on the project timeline. Some activities are not required to start in 2020. Please reconsider the project timeline or provide justification on why the project must start in 2020 for reporting in the end of 2023, and (potentially) before the submission of the first BUR.
2. Some outputs include “printed, edited, published and disseminated.” It is not clear what they mean and whether they are actions in the process or the final outputs. Also, please make sure all outputs are results of actions (e.g. output 3.1.5 may be modified as “methodologies for MRV... “ are established/determined)
3. Component 1: Please clarify a study on “prepared capacity-building programs”. Also, please provide explanation on added-value of public awareness campaign on climate change under this project on top of the existing activities, and how and to what extent such activities will enhance the capacity of the government.
4. Component 2: Please provide further explanation on the relationship between the 4 year-cycle of NC (the submission of TNC was in 2018. The next timing is in 2022 as per 1/CP.16.) and updating of the GHG inventory for the year 2019 for the submission of the fourth NC in 2023 given the reference year of the first BUR was 2016. Also please clarify if the fourth NC includes GHG inventory before the reference year (i.e. 2017 and 2018).
5. Component 2: Adding three gases (HFCs, PFCs, and SF6) in the inventory is encouraging while it may impose a new challenge in collecting and analyzing/calculating emissions data with the 2006 IPCC guidelines. How will the project address such a challenge in an effective and sustainable manner and institutionalize required capacity, including for the first BTR in 2024, which is very close to the timing of the submission of the fourth NC.
6. Component 1, 2, 3, and 4: Relating to the above, please describe how this project would also contribute to the future preparation of the BTR in terms of capacity building (not reporting itself) where similar capacities are needed.

(Also, please streamline/unify abbreviations/acronyms (e.g. 4NC or FNC, not both) to eliminate confusions throughout the document.)

### **Agency Response**

1. The section C part II has been revised.

The duration of the project is based on the previous experience with implementation of the NC projects in Mali and globally. The implementation phase of NC project is typically planned for 48 months. The previous NC project in Mali (TNC), approved by the GEF in Aug 2013, started its implementation phase in May 2014 (= ProDoc signature date). The TNC was finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC in Aug 2018 and the project got operationally and financially closed in May and Dec 2019.

The initiating phase of the EA project can be rather lengthy for meeting all administrative, procurement and other operational requirements and the intention is to start the FNC project as early as possible. The remainder of 2020 year will be used to finalize internal clearances required for Project Document signature, plan and initiate inception phase with the recruitment of key project staff and inception workshop planning activities.

The BUR is planned to be submitted by Dec 2020. Data related to the national circumstances, GHG inventories have been already collected and the GHG emission are under estimation. The BUR's submission will not impact the start of the FNC.

2. Outputs in the PRF revised to be results of actions as suggested.

3. Issues related to climate change has been traditionally managed at the ministry of environment, sanitation and sustainable development, its agencies and directorates. Climate change being gradually recognized as a cross-cutting policy issue needs to be integrated into actions and coordinated efforts of all ministries. However, the other ministries are not sufficiently informed about climate challenges nor UNFCCC process. For this reason, the project plans to undertake several capacity-building and awareness raising activities to collaborate on inter-disciplinary challenges related to climate change and development.

Mali has taken the bottom-up approach towards decentralization of its climate actions. To this end, local authorities play a central role in the implementation and require capacities to assess climate data, translate it into usable information for climate informed decision making. The capacity building program will allow the country to have a capacity building curriculum to fill gaps and needs identified in the gaps' assessment study, and to build necessary institutional framework and processes for complying with current requirements as well as to prepare for the ETF.

The added value of public awareness campaign is in mainstreaming climate change concerns, accelerating understanding and climate action at different levels in society; and to make the implementation of mitigation measures more attractive to not only policy makers but to the public as well.

4. So far, Mali has submitted three National Communications in 2000, 2012 and 2018. Thanks to the continuous capacity building, institutional strengthening as well financial support from the GEF, Mali was able to reduce the time between its submissions from 12 years gap between first and second to 6 years between second and third NC. With the Fourth NC project, Mali is aiming to improve the frequency of its submissions and reduce the time between the submissions to 5 years.

To respect the 4 years cycle of NCs, the EA request for funding of the 4NC should have been ideally prepared and submitted to the GEFSec by the time the TNC report was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2018. The process of requesting funds from the GEFSec has however been delayed due to the institutional changes e.g. change in the inventory system teams.

In line with the guidelines for the preparation of the BUR, the first BUR (to be submitted by Dec 2020) will present GHG inventory for a calendar year (2016) that does not precede the submission date by more than four years. The 4NC seeks to update GHGI data to 2019, with 2017 and 2018 years included and thus present consistent time series and the pathway of GHG emissions in Mali.

Furthermore, considering the requirement of the MPGs under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, Mali will consider submit 4NC with a more recent reporting year, e.g. x-3, if information is available.

5. Mali has benefited a grant from climate and clean air coalition to assess short-lived climate pollutants to emissions. Under this grant, the methodologies to estimate the gas emissions including HFCs, PFCs and SF6 were developed and will be used in the framework of the 4NC.

6. The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement builds on the current, measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system. Reporting under the existing MRV framework including NCs, BURs and ICA form part of the experience drawn upon and contributes to continuous building of capacity and expertise in advance of the ETF. The current framework provides timeframes for improvements of capacity constraints and prepare roadmap to becoming ETF ready. It is an opportunity to learn by doing, analyze gaps and needs, and to build the necessary institutions and processes for complying with the ETF when the time comes.

Abbreviations are unified.

#### **Co-financing**

**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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020, SY: Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Co-financing is not required but is encouraged for this project. Recurrent expenditures are listed including “grant” finance by UNDP. Please clarify the nature of finance and how the grant will be used for which activities under the project.

#### **Agency Response**

UNDP will provide grant co-financing from its TRAC resources to cover costs related to the in-country travel, office equipment, rental of premises for workshops and project management.

The Government in-kind contribution will provide support to the project through provision of office space, means of communication and other utilities, premises for meetings, as well as time of civil servants, members of National Climate Change Committee and other governmental officials involved in the project.

**GEF Resource Availability**

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

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

03/05/2020 SY: Yes.

**Agency Response**

**Are they within the resources available from:**

**The STAR allocation?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Agency Response**

**The focal area allocation?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Agency Response**

**The LDCF under the principle of equitable access**

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

#### **Agency Response**

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

#### **Agency Response**

Focal area set-aside?

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

03/05/2020 SY: Yes.

#### **Agency Response**

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

03/05/2020 SY: Yes, and please see comments below relating to the cost-effectiveness.

#### **Agency Response**

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

**Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for updating. Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Yes, the third NC and first BUR are particularly mentioned. Please elaborate the below points.

1. The first biennial update report has been delayed (the section A, part II says it will be presented in Dec 2020 while the section C, part II says it will be published in 2019. Please clarify information.). How will the delay affect this project in terms of the timeline and data collection? What lessons learned in the BUR process will be addressed?
2. Please clarify what capacity building is required to meet the objective to compile the fourth NC, in addition to information and data updated for the NC on top of those of the third NC and the first BUR.

**Agency Response**

1. The First BUR is planned to be finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC by Dec 2020. The BUR has been delayed due to capacity building and training of experts at different ministries for GHG inventory data collection, use of 2006 IPCC guidelines, establishment of QA/QC procedures, etc. The delay in BUR submission will not affect timeline and data collection under the 4NC project. The overlap period with the BUR will be used for project inception activities.

The NC and BUR are complementary processes and often run in parallel sharing same institutional and management structures to maximize efficiencies and enhance synergies. The aim of each new report is to increase quality of data and reporting through continuous institutional strengthening, wider stakeholders' involvement and capacity building. The BUR project is yet to be completed and the lessons learnt from its implementation compiled. Within 6 months of its submission to the UNFCCC, the BUR will undergo the ICA process and the recommendations of the Team of Technical Experts will be carefully reviewed and taken into considerations for the 4NC activities.

2. In the framework of this project, the capacity of the experts will be enhanced in activities cited above. New experts will be trained as well.

Through various capacity-building methods such as learning-by-doing approaches, online platforms, networks, workshops, and training of trainers seminars the project will aim to strengthen in-country human, scientific, technical and institutional capacity to undertake a GHG inventory, climate modelling, mitigation scenarios, V&A assessments, development and implementation of the MRV system.

**Goals, Objectives, and Activities.**

**Is the project framework sufficiently described?**



### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for clarification. Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Overall, yes. However, please address the below points relating to the project organization structure. Please also see the above comments on the structure/design of the project.

1. Project support unit (Project Coordinator and Administrative and Financial Assistant) is not clearly defined. Which organization will represent this unit and take such responsibilities?
2. The role of UNDP should be separated from the executing function when it provides “a substantive support to the project team in meeting the administrative, finance and management requirements.”

### **Agency Response**

1. The project support unit (PSU) will be based at the premises of AEDD which is the executing entity.
2. The UNDP is the GEF implementing agency. Its support to the PSU and the project generally will be fully separated from the executing function. UNDP will monitor and support implementation of project activities in line with UNDP-GEF standard procedures. UNDP will provide a three-tier (Country Office, regional and HQ levels) supervision, oversight and quality assurance role and will be responsible for reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the project.

#### **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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for updating. Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: There is a list of potential stakeholders while their roles are not fully examined yet. Please address the below points.

1. As per paragraph 9 of the Stakeholder engagement policy (SD/PL/01) and paragraph 20 of the Policy on Monitoring (ME/PL/03), it is important to identify representatives of non-governmental sectors and to elaborate means of engagement and roles/responsibilities. Please clarify how the project ensures their engagement/participation.
2. “Representative of women and youth associations, media” could participate in the process making sure their perspectives are incorporated, rather than being just a beneficiary. Please clarify.
3. The description on stakeholder engagement includes local authorities and local communities while it seems they are not included in the table. Please clarify.

## **Agency Response**

1-3. The non-government sectors such as civil society, private sector as well as representatives of women and youth association intervene in the inventory process through the supervisory body. In Mali, all climate change activities are undertaken under the supervision of national climate change committee. This committee has representatives from different government technical sectors, representatives of civil society, universities, private sector, women and youth. The role of national climate change committee is described in the proposal.

As for local authority and local communities' involvement in the process, they are consulted, and they validate all the studies performed at local level. The consultative bodies at local level are CROCSAD (Regional Committee for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions) and CLOCSAD (Local Committee for Orientation, Coordination and Monitoring of Development Actions).

### **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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for updating and clarifying. Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Gender analysis is not completed yet although the project describes an indicative plan on gender equality and women's empowerment. Please provide such information considering the below points.

1. There should be already relevant information through the third NC and the first BUR and other relevant activities. For instance, output 1.1.1 describes an output "with gender disaggregated data on women's and men's role in resources use; men's and women's education and literacy; women's and men's representation in decision-making on resource issues and in political," which implies that the Agency has already identified some information related to gender differences/gaps.
2. As such, please provide gender-related information (already exists) in developing the fourth NC and describe how the project design will address, including but not limited to collection of disaggregated data and gender differentiated impacts and risks regarding climate change. Please provide how the gender action plan will ensure women's participation in stakeholder engagement.
3. Please elaborate more how the gender action plan will incorporate gender-responsive activities or gender perspectives in relevant components (i.e. relevance in detail between components and the gender action plan).
4. The project proposal describes "ensure gender mainstreaming in the GHG inventory." Is the gender mainstreaming related to GHG Inventory itself or rather relevant to information on other components (e.g. Component 1 and 4)?

## **Agency Response**

1. While the TNC recognizes the correlation among climate change, gender, poverty and sustainable development at national, sectoral and local level as well as the need for the availability of data, capacity building, the integration of gender issues into the third NC and first BUR work has been limited. In this sense, the fourth NC represents an opportunity to come out of a merely technic and gender-neutral vision, set up basis and build capacity for gender-responsive NC (BUR) reporting. Based on the National Monitoring of SDG Implementation report, the female literacy rate, increased from 21.60% in 2016 to 29.6% in 2017 and then to 62.96% in 2018.

However, the percentage of central director posts held by women, despite the adoption of Law n°2015052/PRM of 18 December 2015 instituting measures to promote gender in access to nominative and elective functions, remains low with 13.07% in 2018 against 15.98% in 2017.

Across all stocktaking areas, the 4NC project will aim to collect gender-disaggregated data and research done to date on gender issues in relation to socio-cultural and economic aspects, resource use, natural resource management and women's and men's roles in each area of the economy from national statistical agency and international approved sources.

2. During the Inception phase of the 4NC project, a gender specialist will be engaged to complete Gender Analysis and prepare Gender Action Plan; provide a capacity-building in relation to NC purpose and content, gender issues in environment and their role in the NC/BUR processes; identify where data and information on gender and climate change is unavailable and what steps are needed to fill gaps; establish criteria for working group membership to ensure gender expertise is represented in each group.

The Gender Action Plan will define mechanism for gender responsive stakeholder consultation and engagement process. Its scheme is included in the EA proposal.

3. The Gender Action Plan will be elaborated in coherence and response to the Gender Analysis, by this it will permit to:

Address any gender inequalities real or potential within the scope of the project

- Ensure the needs and vulnerabilities of women and men are addressed in project activities Ensure women's and men's distinct capacities and skills are considered and utilized
- Ensure women and men have equal access to project resources, services and capacity-building
- Ensure equal participation of women and men in both the project management arrangements and as beneficiaries, partners and key stakeholders of the project
- Ensure equal voice among women and men in the decision-making processes of the project
- Ensure women and men equally benefit from the trainings and all other services offered by the project
- Collect and analyse sex-disaggregated data and qualitative information to monitor and evaluate the real gender impacts of the project
- Ensure coordination among key development actors to further enhance gender mainstreaming and promote gender equality and/or the empowerment of women

4. The mainstreaming of gender in the inventory process is relevant to the component 1 and 4. The project will examine how women and men are differentially engaged in supporting or reducing greenhouse gases and how including gender analysis into greenhouse gas inventory reporting can contribute to reducing emissions. Mainstreaming gender in the process will enable the country to better sense how climate change affect women and men differently and what are the best options available to respond to the change.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

June 9, 2020 SY: Thank you for updating. If audit costs are charged to PMCs, please make sure that the PMU or equivalent conducts reporting to UNDP and UNDP audits accordingly. A general audit as an Implementing Agency is covered by Agency fees.

May 28, 2020 SY: Thank you for providing the detailed table. Please clarify NIM audit activities (if applicable, include the relevance to activities listed under table 1 of Annex 3 of the guidelines of projects and programs cycle policy.). If NIM audit is related to financial audit or technical/financial reports, it should be charged to PMCs. If NIM audit is related to project supervision in general as listed in the guidelines, it should be charged to the GEF Agency fees.

03/05/2020 SY: The proposal includes a M&E plan; however, budgeting has not done yet (it indicates to “finalize the M&E budget” at a later stage). Please provide an estimated budget if any, with information requested by paragraph 20 of the Policy on Monitoring (ME/PL/03) including indicators, roles and responsibilities.

#### **Agency Response**

19 May 2020: Estimated M&E budget has been added to the EA request.

8 June 2020: The cost of audit will be budgeted under the PMC budget.

Audit is an integral part of sound financial and administrative management, and of the UNDP accountability system. Its overarching objective is to provide UNDP with assurance that resources are being properly used. Projects are audited regularly, following UNDP Financial Regulations. Each UNDP project should be audited at least once in its lifetime.

#### **Cost Effectiveness.**

**Is the project cost effective?**

#### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

May 28, 2020 SY: Cleared.

03/05/2020 SY: Ongoing projects related to data collection are identified. TNC could be also a good basis for the date source as applicable. The proposal could also further elaborate how the project utilizes capacity building efforts through the first BUR and TNC and institutionalizes required capacities accordingly, besides collecting data.

### **Agency Response**

The 4NC project build on findings and recommendations from previous NC and BUR work. The institutional arrangements will be based on and will enhance the institutional structure and technical capacities built under TNC and BUR.

Preparation processes of NC and BUR have been and will continue to be closely coordinated by the UNFCCC National Focal Point and the AEDD to identify synergies and increase cost effectiveness. The biennial reporting requirements have helped bring about more continuity in terms of collaboration, exchanging information and maintaining capacities for an effective and sustainable reporting.

NCs and BURs establish and maintain a standard for information gathering and archiving, institutionalizing these processes for the long-term, which will benefit future reporting and thereby aid national processes for addressing climate change.

### **Cost Ranges**

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

### **Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

### **Agency Response**

**Part III. Endorsement/ Approval by OFP**

### **Country endorsement**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

Yes, the official letter from the current GEF OFP is attached.

**Agency Response**

Response to Comments

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

**GEF Secretariat Comment****Agency Response**

Other Agencies comments?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion****Agency Response**

Council comments

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion****Agency Response**

STAP Comments

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Agency Response**

Convention Secretariat comments

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Agency Response**

CSOs comments

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

**Agency Response**

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

June 9, 2020 SY: Comments addressed. PM recommends the project for technical clearance for CEO endorsement.

May 28 2020 SY: Please address the comment on M&E.

03/05/2020 SY: Please address the comments above.

#### Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

#### CEO Recommendation

#### Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Mali is a Party to the UNFCCC and is eligible to access EA support for NCs. This project is prepared in line with the GEF7 climate change mitigation objective CCM-3 and under the maximum costs.

The immediate objective of the project is to assist the country in the preparation and submission of its Fourth National Communication (4NC) on Climate Change to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC for the fulfilment of its obligations to the Convention. The project will also contribute to the preparation of the first BTR, which will be submitted by 2024 including through narrowed time gaps between reporting year and inventory year and annual basis of inventory updating. The preparation will be in line with the revised guidelines. (decision 17/CP.8). The project also aims to achieve the below objectives:

- Integrate climate change considerations into the national and development policies.
- Strengthen institutional and technical capacity in the areas of climate change and the UNFCCC reporting on continuous and sustainable manner.
- Mainstream mitigation action in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs.
- Assist the process of national planning and policy-making.



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The project expected outcomes are:

- National circumstances and institutional arrangements relevant to the preparation of the national communications on a continuous basis updated and described;
- Other relevant information is described (including research/ systematic observation, technology transfer, education, public awareness, capacity building), constraints and gaps and support needs compiled;
- National GHG inventory updated up to 2019 using 2006 IPCC guidelines and capacity to collect this information on an ongoing basis enhanced;
- Mitigation analysis and policy measures updated;
- In-depth vulnerability assessment, including recommended adaptation measures for priority sectors of socio-economic development and natural environment conducted; including risks of climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events developed;
- 4NC compiled endorsed by the Government and submitted to UNFCCC;
- Project regularly monitored, financial audit conducted, and lessons learned compiled.