Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq.

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11426
Countries

Iraq
Project Name

Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq.
Agencies

UNDP
Date received by PM

10/18/2023
Review completed by PM

10/23/2023
Program Manager

Mark Zimsky

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area
Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?
b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

On the PMC Proportionality: there is not proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 4.95%, for a co-financing of $45,460,877 the expected contribution to PMC must be around $2,250,313 instead of $ $439,123 (which is 0.9%). As the costs associated with the project management must be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion. A more definitive estimation of PMC should be presented and adjusted at CEO Endorsement stage.

11/6/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments
UNDP response, 6 November 2023

The GEF contribution for PMC remains at 4.95%, and the expected co-financing contribution to the PMC has been allocated proportionally, resulting in a total amount of $2,250,313.

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Given the complex operational situation in Iraq, and as requested by the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) of Iraq, this project will be executed by UNDP (through the Iraq Country Office) using the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM).

The clearance of this PIF cannot be taken as the approval of the GEF agency to execute the project because further analysis on the country?s reasoning for this request is warranted and will be assessed during project endorsement.

Agency's Comments

UNDP response, 6 November 2023

Thank you for the additional time to provide a detailed analysis on the Government of Iraq?s request for UNDP through the Iraq Country Office to use the DIM. A detailed analysis of capacities in government and other partners will be conducted and presented during the CEO endorsement request stage.

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project?s indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKs

a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?

b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?

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

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

References are made to meetings held with stakeholders at various times, but no institutions names of CSOs, private sector, or indigenous groups are provided nor a summary of how those consulted will be involved. Please provide these. Given that the Agency will be an implementer it is important that stakeholders are clearly indicated for their involvement in the project.

11/6/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments
UNDP response, 6 November 2023

The conceptualization (PIF) phase of the project in Western Iraq involved a consultation meetings held on March 31st 2022 at the Iraqi Ministry of Environment in Baghdad. Key national stakeholders from various technical departments of the Iraqi government and international experts participated in this discussion. The attendees included high-ranking officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Environment, the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture, and representatives from the national NGOs, the Iraqi Green Climate Organization.

In addition to these discussions, a field visit was conducted in Haditha Township, Anbar Governorate, in late October 2022 to assess the proposed sites and gather recent data on the ground conditions. This visit was carried out by a joint team comprising officials from various departments of the Iraqi Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, as well as local authorities and community focus groups from Haditha District.

These additions, including a list of the names of those interviewed have been added to Section D of the PIF and detail report is in annex. Additional consultations, stakeholder mapping and a stakeholder engagement plan will be undertaken as part of the full project development process, also liaising with related UNDP initiatives, particularly the Umbrella Programme on Biodiversity Finance Plans.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country?s(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments
Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project?s intended location?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments
10/23/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

10/23/2023

No, please revise in response to comments above and resubmit.

11/6/2023

Yes, PIF is recommended for technical clearance.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Response, 6 November 2023

Thank you, the above comments have been addressed.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	**10/26/2023**	**10/30/2023**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**11/6/2023**	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		