Supporting Country's Policy Coherence for Nature-Positive and Resilient Agrifood Systems through the Policy Optimization Tool Lab (PolOpT Lab)

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
12324
Countries
Global (Chile, Costa Rica, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Mozambique)
Project Name
Supporting Country's Policy Coherence for Nature-Positive and Resilient Agrifood Systems through the Policy Optimization Tool Lab (PolOpT Lab)
Agencies
FAO
Date received by PM
4/28/2026
Review completed by PM

Program Manager
Dikshya Devkota
Focal Area
Biodiversity
Project Type
MSP

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
5/7/2026 DD

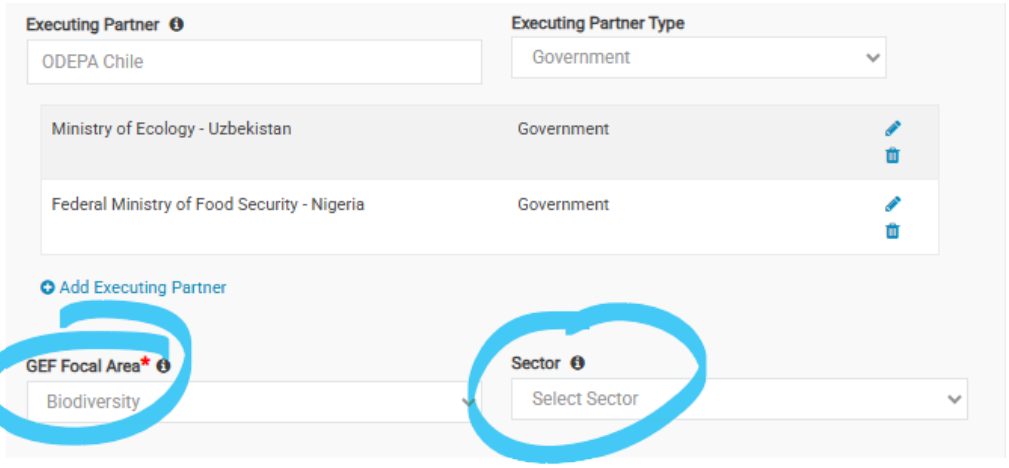
The project's GEF financing table and Indicative focal area elements table shows that it is under BD focal area - please change the Focal Area field in the General Project Information Table. Also remove the information from field 'Project Sector (CCM Only)', which is only for projects in Climate Change Mitigation.

General Project information

Project Title:	Supporting Country's Policy Coherence for Nature-Positive and Resilient Agrifood Systems through the Policy Optimization Tool Lab (PolOpT Lab)		
Region:	Global	**GEF Project ID:**	12324
Country(ies):	Global, Chile, Costa Rica, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Mozambique	**Type of Project:**	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	**GEF Agency ID:**	763766
Executing Partner:	ODEPA Chile	**Executing Partner Type:**	Government
	Ministry of Ecology - Uzbekistan		Government
	Federal Ministry of Food Security - Nigeria		Government
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area	**Submission Date :**	4/28/2026
Project Sector (CCM Only):	AFOLU		

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Noted. Addressed in the portal.



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
5/11/2026

Please shorten to abide by the 250word limit. Also, revise the summary to specify that the project will be implemented in 5 countries and not 10.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

The text has been shortened to 250 words and the number of countries has been corrected throughout the text.

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
6/11/2026 DD

During the PPG phase, please further refine the outcome indicators - rather than "number of..." please specify the targetted number of the outcome. In addition, the indicators also need to be incorportaed and elaborated in the Section B.

Outrcome 2.1: Based on PolOpT evidence and a multi-stakeholder consultation, number of countries that implement more coherent policy reform or design and adopt/ adjust a national agriculture program or investment plan, with a target of at least four countries." During the PPG please explore how is coherence being measured and include additional details in the CEO approval document.

5/11/2026

Please revise the components as per the comments under question 5 in the review sheet. In addition, please include project-level indicator for each component

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Noted. The components have been revised as per comments under question 5 and project level indicators have been added.

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

Knowledge management need to be further elaborated as per the comments included in this review sheet.

The reflection of gender perspective is weak. Agency is requested to strengthen the gender dimensions, based on desk research, the Agency's rich resources on gender equality integration in its thematic areas of expertise and GEF portfolio, and the Agency's work on advancing inclusion and gender-transformative gender approaches in its programming. Please revise PIF accordingly.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Done. An annex with gender analysis and a GAP has been added, and gender aspects integrated in Section B and the Results Framework.

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
5/11/2026

Yes. It is recommended to continue efforts to secure additional co-financing to meet the GEF's aspirational portfolio level target.

Agency's Comments

Noted and efforts will be made to increase cofinancing during project design.

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
06/11/2026 DD

SDG 17 and its targets are also relevant for this project - to be added during CEO approval.

5/7/2026 DD

In the baseline senario, please also elaborate the context in each country in the absence of this project.

It would be useful if the project can highlight which MEAs, which SDGs and which goals to which this project would be relevant.

I am unaware of the "Policy Coherence and Political Consistency to achieve tangible and durable results in conservation areas and for people's livelihood" project. Please double check and include the GEF ID, if a GEF project.

Alignment with FSIP - please clarify that this is the GEF FSIP. Similarly, please specify that BIOFIN is also supported by the GEF.

It may also be useful to reference the IEO's latest evaluation on Policy coherence, published online and to be presented at the upcoming June council.

The current barriers and enablers in the systems could be better identified. While the ToC details the barriers, please elaborate on existing enablers that the project could build on.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

i. Baseline information for each country has been included in paragraphs 10-15

ii. text was added in paragraph 22

iii. The results of this project were presented by Colombia OFP in Panama at the ECW last October. We cannot find the exact title of the project, so the text has been removed. It will be added during PRODOC design

iv. noted and clarified.

v. Noted and clarified

vi. Reference included in paragraph 21

Additional information on enablers has been included in paragraph 39.

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

6/11/2026 DD

Given that this tool has already been preliminarily applied in Nigeria, during the PPG phase, it would be important to clearly articulate how it will be taken forward in consultation with the GEF OFP and country counterparts. This should build on the progress already made and specify how the initial work will be deepened to further refine the project design and its key components.

5/1/2026 DD

It is important to elaborate why the project has selected to be implemented in the foodsystems sector versus others. Please clarify why food systems is critical sector in terms of policy coherence for enviornmental outcomes. Agriculture is one of the sectors with the largest enviornmentally harmful subsidies to begin with.

In addition, it is not clear exactly how this project is moving beyond the previous tool developed and applied under the programs mentioned. Therefore, the added value of this additional MSPcould be better elaborated.

While the PIF identifies some link with GEF and non-GEF project, please include a more comprehensive list, either now or at CEO. Also, for the countries where PolOpt is being piloted through this project, that have a FSIP child project, please explore the complementaries between the two projects.

Pg. 15: " First, the cost-effectiveness of the public policies and investments increases, which means higher financial returns for the public purse while economic, social and environmental outcomes improve, with the same money." This may be materialized in the long-term and should be stated as such.

Pg. 16. "This evolving functionality will reinforce the tool?s potential to guide transformative policy action under GEF-8 and potentially GEF-9." How is "transformative policy action" defined for this project and how will the project contribute to its achievement?

If additional resources are required to incorporate additional KMGBF targets (para 16), these should be removed and only the potential achievements within the project bounds should be included in the prodoc.

While the roles of governmental stakeholders have been recognized, the role of non-state actors is missing from this section. Please elaborate.

Agency's Comments

29 May 2026

(i)The following text was added in paragraph 19:

Therefore, while this project will center around a very disaggregated version of the agriculture sector (including livestock, fisheries and forestry), it will incorporate other sectors of the economy (mining, infrastructure, manufacturing, and services) as much as the national accounts data of each country allows it. Food systems are a critical entry point for policy coherence, as agriculture strongly shapes land use, water use and emissions. Any policy support for non-agricultural sectors that are well represented in budget and public expenditure

data can in principle be optimized. When optimizing agricultural policies, the tool can provide results on production, jobs, exports/imports related to all economic sectors of the economy well represented in the data.

(ii) in short, the model was extended using FSIP support to include environmental considerations and preliminary results by FAO are promising. It will now be applied at the country level?this means we will work closely for several months with national teams to calibrate the model and run optimal scenarios. We will also work with national governments to either update national strategies or develop investment plans. We will also work on extensions related to UNCCD/CBD regarding the identification of land no longer needed for agriculture and improve the data on climate smart solutions. The following text was added in paragraph 31:

In summary, the proposed project will build on efforts started by the FSIP (GEFID 11215) to include environmental considerations into PolOpT as preliminary desk-results developed by FAO are promising. The project will work closely with national partners to implement PolOpT at the national level with the aim of updating national strategies/national plans or update agricultural support (Component 2, Outcome indicator 3). In FSIP countries (ie. Nigeria, Chile and Costa Rica), the project will work closely with national projects to support the implementation of project activities related to policy recommendations.

(iii) This will be addressed during the PPG phase. A recent review shows a new set of GEF funded projects (GEFID 12000 and higher) targeting policy coherence that were not approved when the draft PIF was designed. Regarding FSIP coordination, yes, the project will work closely to implement project activities related to policy recommendations. See last sentence of the added paragraph above.

(iv) the sentence was changed to: ?First, the cost-effectiveness of the public policies and investments may increase in the long term,??

(v) transformative policy action refers to the optimized budgets and the related government actions to reallocate these agricultural supports (ie. budgets reallocations). No additional resources are required at this stage.

(vi) the following text was added:

Other non-state actors like NGOs and the private sector are engaged in the analysis and validation of alternative scenarios and policy recommendations to verify to potential adoption of new priorities or modification to existing support instruments

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
6/11/12026 DD

During the PPG phase, please further refine the outcome indicators - rather than "number of..." please specify the targetted number of the outcome. In addition, the indicators also need to be incorportaed and elaborated in the Section B.

5/7/2026 DD

A higher quality TOC needs to be updated into the PIF or uploaded seperately in the portal.

Project Objective: Please revise to indicate support to 5 countries. In alignment with the terminology used at the GEF, please revise "beneficiary countries" to "recipient countries", or simply, "GEF countries".

Under each of the component/outputs, please include project level indicators that would be used to monitor these outputs as the project progresses.

Component 1: "...and allocate enough expert time to provide meaningful support to countries embarking in the path towards policy coherence..." what does "enough" time mean? How will this be measured and how will the project ensure its realization?

Output 1.1.1: Additional clarification is required for this output. Please specify what is meant by a ?PolOpt Lab?. For example, whether this refers to a web?based platform, a structured community of technical experts, a facilitation mechanism, or another format. Clearly articulating the nature, function, and intended modality of the lab will help ensure a shared understanding of what this output entails.

"This specialized support will include expert time to help build the capacity of GEF beneficiary countries on policy coherence.": Please further specify the purpose and focus of the capacity development, rather than referring broadly to policy coherence. Additionally, clarify?within the context of the project outcomes?what coherence is being achieved and in what practical terms.

Output 1.1.2. In addition to consultations with BD and CC experts, please also include LD experts. Also, considering that chemicals is mentioned in the prodoc further down, it is not clear why PolOpt will be updated to only include the functionalities related relevant to the Rio Conventions?

It would be useful to understand what considerations, if any, on the MEA is already included in the model as it currently stands.

Component 2. Please revise to 5 countries throughout the PIF.

Output 2.1.1: Is there a geographic scope for the micro-level analysis or would it cover the entire country? Please clarify.

Conduct trainings workshops - in line with comments on knowledge and learning across the PIF, please also ensure the factoring of online learning tools and resources in such capacity building activities.

Output 2.1.2: How will the different senarios to be developed be determined? Is it possible to undertake as many simulations as possible or would the number and types of simulations be pre-determined? If in the case of latter, please elaborate further on the process.

Output 2.1.5: "Carry out consultations with government counterparts to understand the willingness of the government to prioritize and scale up optimal agri-food policies identified at the top of the ranking or policy stack generated from the PolOpT scenarios." and "Conduct

survey-based studies to analyze constraints (economic, technical or behavioral) to farmer adoption in response to the optimized agrifood policies that the government may be willing to prioritize and scale up. The analysis will identify concrete ways of overcoming the constraints where possible." Such consultation should take place early in the project, even during the PPG stage, to ensure government and stakeholder support and buy-in for the project outcomes.

Output 2.1.6.: Would this university or national research institute be the same as the executing agency, with with FAO will partner, in the country? If so, please specify it accordingly.

Component 3: Knowledge management and learnings are key components and expected outcomes of this project, especially considering that the capacity to utilize PolOpt can be highly technical and niche. As such, please elaborate this section further. Please provide specific examples of capacity building activities, including online resources, and the targetted outputs for each of them. For example, generation of documents, summaries, online tools, online learning, videos, blogs, conference presentations, academic presentations, etc.

Output 3.1.2. Please clarify what does "global public good" mean and give examples of what such output may entail, beyond conference participation? For example, a knowledge product on the lessons and outcomes of the project would be useful or, a focused webinar that presents the project's expereinces and insights into advancing policy coherence.

It would also be important to elaborate through project acitivites or indicators, how does the project intend to calibrate and measure for "enhanced policy coherence", which is the primary objective of this project?

Agency's Comments

29 May 2026

(i) a higher quality TOC was uploaded as a separate document in the portal

(ii) noted and updated, both number of countries and terminology reference to ?beneficiary countries? removed. Referred as GEF countries

iii. These have been included in the logframe

iv.The sentence has been changed to:

The program will ensure PolOpT is regularly updated to ensure it keeps up with latest MEAs commitments; will develop a web-based interface to facilitate country ownership and reduce the high technical barrier to implement policy coherence; and will provide technical support to ensure countries can simulate different policy scenarios as they embark towards policy coherence.

v. the PolOpT Lab refers to a structured community of technical experts led by FAO that will support countries develop the detailed steps outlined under component 2 (ie. specific focus of capacity development is for countries to implement these outputs). These experts will also support activities 1.1.2 (update PolOpT to respond to relevant MEAs) and Output 1.1.3 (Develop web-based interface).

vi. Noted. ? Land degradation experts? have been added.

Regarding chemicals management, the government of Uzbekistan would like to analyze impacts of reducing pesticide and fertilizer use, not all them necessarily controlled by the BRS conventions. Therefore we will focus on the short run on the Rio Conventions.

vii. Noted and updated (reference to 5 countries throughout the PIF)

viii. This is national data. Updated.

ix. This is correct?under output 2.1.3, countries will develop the business as usual and the optimized scenario (and other scenarios are required) using the web-based interface developed under Component 1

x. The scenarios will be developed together with the 5 governments?there will not be a fixed/pre-determined number of scenarios. The scenarios will depend on the policy priorities of the government or any strategic sectors they will want to focus on.

xi. Noted. We will advance as much as possible during the PPG phase, but note that since this is a $1.7m MSP, the funding under the PPG is limited to $50k.

xii. Yes, this is the national executing partner. We will transfer resources at the national level via letters of agreement.

xiii. Component 2 provides a very detailed description of the national level activities. Capacity building happens at each stage of the 6 outputs.

xiv. Noted. Text has been extended to include examples on what constitutes global public goods

The project intends to enhance policy coherence by reducing the deviation from an optimal agricultural budget scenario agreed with government and national stakeholders. Once PolOpT is implemented at the national level, countries will have an optimal agricultural budget allocation by policy support measure and by commodity. This represents a coherent budget as it will consider national socioeconomic and environmental objectives. The government can then review how much they deviate from this optimal budget and a measure of enhanced coherence can be determined. This will be fine-tuned during project design.

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

Agency's CommentsNo response required.

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
6/11/2026 DD

During the PPG, please continue to explore and identify additional GEF and non-GEF projects that this project will collaborate with and to elaborate on the nature of the collaboration.

5/11/2026 DD

a)

b) At the PIF stage, it is too early to determine the dual role. At this stage, we recommend to leave this section as "to be determined" and continue assessing for suitable executing agencies during the PPF stage. If at CEO approval, the agency expects to play a dual role, please ensure to secure the necessary exceptions and approvals.

C) Relevant comments on mentioned in other sections of the review sheet as well - please address those too. Please elaborate further on what is the nature of the coordination/collaboration with these projects. How is the project intending to work with the different IPs mentioned? Also, if there are relevant non-GEF projects in the country, please identify and elaborate those as well.

D) as also mentioned in other sections of the review sheet, further elaboration on knowledge, learning and strategic communication is required.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

(a) no response required

(b) As discussed before with GEFSEC, the tool was developed, is managed, and is implemented by FAO experts. It is not a ?simple excel? that anyone can learn online. It requires specialized technical expertise which will require time to develop. One goal of the program is to build national capacities and develop tools (ie. web interface) that will allow

countries to develop policies that are coherent with their development and their environmental goals.

As instructed by the GEF, we will remove the text on execution from the submission.

(c) Text has been added on collaboration with other projects listed. Additional non-GEF projects will be identified and included during the project preparation phase.

(d) Collaboration with other programs will be on knowledge sharing. Knowledge activities are described in other sections as requested in the review sheet.

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

6/11/2026 DD

Core indicators to be further refined during PPG, particularly, considering the fact that the benefits of the project will only be realized if the policy recommendations from the project is implemented.

5/11/2026 DD

Please clarify how the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) are calculated for this project. The project proposes to identify different policy scenarios that may contribute to these GEBs; however, realization of these benefits is contingent upon the adoption of the policy changes recommended under the project outcomes, which is not yet guaranteed.

Agency's Comments

29 May 2026

The following explanation is included:

To calculate Core Indicators for the five countries in the project, we will use preliminary results from PolOpT from three countries in Africa: Nigeria, Mozambique and Ghana.

Uzbekistan is structurally comparable to Ghana in that both occupy a mid-transition development stage, where agriculture remains significant but is no longer dominant. In each case, agricultural employment shares fall within a similar intermediate range (roughly 25?40%), and agriculture contributes a moderate share of GDP (well below subsistence-dominated economies but still economically relevant). At the same time, both economies are undergoing structural transformation, with expanding industrial and service sectors driving growth and urbanization. Their GDP per capita levels are also broadly comparable within the lower-middle-income bracket, and each exhibits diversified economic activity rather than extreme dependence on a single sector. This combination?moderate agricultural reliance, ongoing sectoral diversification, and comparable income levels?places Uzbekistan and Ghana in a similar position along the development trajectory.

On the other hand, Chile and Costa Rica are not comparable to the countries for which we have preliminary results from PolOpT. This is because the countries are much smaller, have smaller populations and their share of people dependent on agriculture is much lower than the three African countries above. Therefore, we have not included estimates for these countries at the PIF stage.

Core Indicator 4: Land under sustainable management

PolOpT measures the change in the amount of land needed in agriculture under the optimized scenario. The amount of land no longer needed in this scenario could be set aside or change its use (for instance protected or restored). Since the land released was originally used as agricultural land, it will be accounted for under Core Indicator 4. Preliminary results for three African countries include:

Nigeria: -10,000 ha

Mozambique: -60,000 ha

Ghana : -300,000 ha (data to be used as proxy for Uzbekistan)

Total CI4: 370,000 ha under improved management

Core Indicator 6: GHG emissions avoided or reduced

PolOpT calculates the GHG emissions reduced for the optimized scenario. Preliminary results for the three African countries include:

Nigeria: -45,000 tCO2 in year 5

Mozambique: -65,000 tCO2 in year 5

Ghana : -105, 000 tCO2 in year 5 (data to be used as proxy for Uzbekistan)

Total CI4: 215,000 tCO2

Core Indicator 11: Beneficiaries

PolOpT calculates the number of people that no longer living in poverty. Preliminary results for the three African countries include:

Nigeria: -38,000 people no longer living in poverty in year 5

Mozambique: -182,000 people no longer living in poverty in year 5

Ghana : -38, 000 people no longer living in poverty in year 5 (data to be used as proxy for Uzbekistan)

Total CI11: 258,000 less people living in poverty, half of them women

As with most GEF projects, the realization of the benefits is contingent on the implementation of the project---therefore it is correct to point out that the realization of the proposed benefits for this project is contingent upon the adoption of the policy changes recommended.

It is not possible to guarantee that the policy changes will be adopted before the project is drafted and agreed with countries. We will have better likelihood of the adoption once project design is finalized.

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026 DD

N/A

Agency's Comments
5.6 RISKs

a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?

b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?

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
5/11/2026 DD

Political and governance risk: Considering that the project is highly dependent on government participation and uptake, a higher risk factor might be warranted. In addition, if the project has recieved early support or signals from the related Ministries, it would be important to highlight those here.

Capacity: Capacity risk must be higher, perhaps a moderate, as the project will rely on in-country capacity to implement the project, as well as for its substainability post completion.

Agency's Comments

29 May 2026

Noted. Both risks have been raised.

Countries participating in the program have expressed their willingness to carry out a national dialogue on policy coherence supported by data and evidence developed using PolOpT.

The program will make contractual arrangements with national entities mandated to work in policy planning to reduce capacity risks.

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
5/11/2026 DD

Yes, with the elaboration in knowledge and learning as mentioned in previous comments.

Additionally, considering that policy coherence is one of the primary objectives of this project, it is not clear how this will be measured and reported?

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Policy coherence can be measured by the deviation from the optimally agreed expenditure distribution. The project intends to enhance policy coherence by reducing the deviation from an optimal agricultural budget scenario agreed with government and national stakeholders. Once PolOpT is implemented at the national level, countries will have an optimal agricultural budget allocation by policy support measure and by commodity. This represents a coherent budget as it will consider national socioeconomic and environmental objectives. The government can then review how much they deviate from this optimal budget and a measure of enhanced coherence can be determined. This will be fine-tuned during project design.

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
6/11/2026 DD

While STAP and IEO's papers on Policy Coherence has been identified, which is great, it is also important to anchor the project and the policy coherence elements in the GEFSEC council paper on Policy Coherence. This is requested to be meaningfully incorporated during the CEO approval.

5/11/2026 DD

While LD and UNCCD is mentioned in this section, it is not mentioned in other sections of the PIF. Please ensure consistency.

In addition to the focal area strategies, this project also contributes to the GEF's agenda on Policy Coherence, which is a cross-cutting lever explicility noted in the GEF-9 programming directions. Please specify this as well.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Noted. An explicit note has been made to the policy coherence agenda in paragraph 21.

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
5/11/2026 DD

Further strengthen the relevance to and consistency of the MEAs, as noted in other sections of the review sheet.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Noted. See paragraph 22 on Rio Conventions

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
5/11/2026 DD

Yes

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments
5/15/2026 DD

Yes

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026 DD

Please provide the names of the stakeholders consulted during the PIF stage. In the information provided, not all countries included in the project is reflected.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Table has been updated with the stakeholders consulted.

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
5/11/2026 DD

yes

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026 DD

yes

Agency's Comments
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

N/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

Yes

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
5/11/2026

Yes

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

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
5/11/2026 DD

Yes

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

Yes

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
5/11/2026

Yes

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
5/11/2026

N/A

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
5/11/2026

Yes

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
5/15/2026 DD

We note that FAO has attached Environmental and Social Safeguard Screening document. An overall ESS risk is classified as Low. We understand that ?inclusion of all marginalized groups including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, farmers, women, and youth through multistakeholder approaches in policymaking and implementation? is critical for nature-positive agrifood systems.

Please clarify how the project will engage with marginalized groups including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, farmers, women, and youth as partners of the project, particularly Component 2.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

The proposed project focuses on the implementation of PolOpT at national level (ie. co-developed with national partners) and validated with key stakeholders. The validation process of the scenarios will include consultations with non-government stakeholders (including private sector) under output 2.1.5

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026

Yes

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
5/11/2026

N/A

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

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

Secretariat's Comments
5/11/2026 DD

No. Agency to incorporate comments and send back for another review.

Agency's Comments
29 May 2026

Please consider the updated PIF and the response to the project review sheet.

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

Secretariat's Comments

6/11/2026 DD

While the project is technically cleared at this stage, the following elements are requested to be further considered and elaborated during the PPG phase:

a) In the case of Nigeria, further clarify the specific project activities in a country-led manner, building on the progress achieved to date and clearly articulating how this will be advanced by this MSP.

b) Further explore and elaborate on linkages with other GEF and non-GEF projects, including how collaboration and coordination will be operationalized.

c) Further specify the targeted indicator numbers, where relevant, for project-level outcomes.

d) Refine the core indicators to ensure alignment with the expected project outcomes.

e) Continue exploring linkages with relevant MEAs and their mandates in alignment with the GEF. Incorporating additional environmental elements and sectors beyond agrifood systems would add further value to this MSP.

5/15/2026 DD

In the development of the Gender Action Plan, please ensure that the findings from the gender analysis informs the preparation of the GAP and that these are reflected in the project components. Please ensure that in the development of the project results framework, gender-specific indicators are included to facilitate monitoring and reporting. Please indicate measures to facilitate and support the implementation of the GAP (e.g., budgets, regular monitoring, adaptive management, etc.). Please make a reference to include in PIRs, MTRs and TE, reports on gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

Agency's Comments

29 May 2026

Noted. The GAP has been revised and the project results framework now includes gender specific indicators.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	**5/11/2026**	**6/2/2026**
Additional Review (as necessary)	**6/11/2026**	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		