

Fourth National Communication

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10636

Countries

Tonga

Project Name

Fourth National Communication

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

7/20/2020

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 CEO Endorsement Request

8/6/2020: Yes, the enabling activity is aligned with the climate change focal area strategy.

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 CEO Endorsement Request

Nov 8, 2021: Thank you for the revision (including the title and the structure).
Comments cleared.

Oct 19, 2021: Comment on BTR: As the informational note (please see the document link below) explained, BUR support for Parties to the Paris Agreement will be phased out on January 1, 2022. Regardless of the timing of the submission of BTR1, it would be more efficient in terms of efforts and resources for the country to pursue NC/BTR combined modality instead of NC/BUR. Also, there is a modality to ask BTR1 stand-alone support or a top-up (after Jan 2023) if NC support is pursued at this stage. There is also a risk that the submission of BUR would be delayed given the current timeline. As such, please consider NC/BTR or NC (and BTR support later) modality for this project.

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF_C.59_Inf.19_Information%20Note%20on%20the%20Financing%20of%20the%20Biennial%20Transparency%20Reports%20for%20Developing%20Country%20Parties%20to%20the%20Paris%20Agreement.pdf

Other comments cleared.

8/6/2020: Yes, the project structure is appropriate. However please address the following comments:

- Please comment on the coordination expected with the TNA projects under the UNEP TNA Umbrella Program.
- Please comment on the significant delays experienced by the third National Communication project.
- Considering the above, please comment on the feasibility for this project to prepare and submit a BUR within two years and a NC within 4 years and how the project may respond to a delay in these outputs.
- Please comment on the plans for Tonga as it relates to the reporting framework under the Paris Agreement. Does Tonga anticipate to prepare and submit the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) by December 2024? If so, it is likely that it will have to adjust this NC to be able to also support the first BTR (to be determined by the upcoming guidelines for BTR support.).

Agency Response

8 November 2021: The proposal is revised to request support for NC4. The BTR support will be considered at a later stage through one of the available modalities (standalone or top-up).

15/09/2021

- Changes in the documents: Reference to the UNEP TNA Umbrella Program has been included in the proposal under section D.

The 4NC and BUR1 project will have strong linkages to the TNA process in Tonga. The Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC) is the primary national focal point for both initiatives, which will ensure proper coordination, knowledge-sharing and that the project activities are complementary. It is expected that, the knowledge and information generated from the TNA project will assist the implementation of the 4NC and BUR1 project and that the results of the TNA can be incorporated into both documents (4NC and BUR1).

- During the implementation of the TNC project, the Government of Tonga was going through institutional restructuring. The Department of Climate Change and the accompanying climate change portfolio were integrated into the newly established MEIDECC causing some operational delays. Furthermore, due to technical and human capacity constraints, the data collection, analysis and validation process has taken longer than expected which along with staff turnovers in the Project Management Team have also contributed to delays in the implementation of the TNC project.

- Over the past years, Tonga has taken significant efforts to increase its capacities to plan, implement and monitor its climate change actions, including the establishment of a Mitigation and Climate Change Reporting Division under the Department of Climate Change with dedicated staff supporting the preparation of NCs, BURs and BTRs in the future. Furthermore, while working on a wide range of climate change projects, Tonga has established an extensive network of national and international partners and experts available to support the 4NC and BUR1 project with relevant technical assistance. With the staff available in the Mitigation and Climate Change Reporting Division and the network of relevant technical experts available, MEIDECC is well-positioned to complete and submit the documents according to schedule.

- Tonga is keen to meet reporting requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework on a timely manner, but at this point of time, it would be too early to commit to a submission date for its first BTR by December 2024. The 4NC and BUR1 project will strengthen Tonga's technical and institutional capacities and frameworks on MRV that will be essential for the preparation of the first BTR. Before considering the timing of the preparation and submission of the first BTR however, Tonga would like to focus on the preparation and submission of its First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) which would allow to identify remaining gaps and capacity needs in its reporting process that could be addressed by applying for BTR support under one of the available modalities.

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 CEO Endorsement Request

Nov 16, 2021: Co-financing has been removed.

8/6/2020: Co-financing is not required for enabling activities; however the government is contributing \$100,000 in kind.

Agency Response
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 CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes, the amount proposed in Table D is in line with GEF policies and guidelines.

Agency Response
Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response
The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response
Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes, the amount requested of \$932,940 including fees is available.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes.

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 CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Stakeholders.

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?

Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Oct 19, 2021: Comment cleared.

8/6/2020: Yes, stakeholders who will be engaged have been identified. See below comment on Environmental and Social Safeguards.

The ESS Policy requires that, if an ESS assessment is required by Agency policy and procedures, then such assessment is provided at the time of submission of the EA for approval. If an assessment is not required by Agency policy and procedures, the Agency confirms this to the GEF Secretariat at the time of submission of the EA for approval. Please either provide or confirm.

Agency Response

15/09/2021

UNDP confirms that according to its policies NC and BUR Enabling Activity projects are exempt from ESS assessment.

The project's objective is to assist the Government of Tonga in the preparation and submission of its Fourth National Communication (4NC) and First Biennial Update Report (BUR1) for the fulfillment of the obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and, secondly, to support capacity development in this regard.

Based on the below listed exemption criteria of the "SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCEDURE" guidelines, this project is considered exempted from the SESP screening.

- a. Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials (preparation, printing and submission of Fourth NC and BUR to the UNFCCC) and
- b. Organization of an event, workshop, training (Inception Workshop, Stakeholders consultations, Validation workshops, etc.)

Even without screening, UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards remain relevant. The implementation of the project will not imply any stress or damage to the environment, marginalized groups, neither will cause deterioration of the social and/or environmental situation in Tonga. The design of the trainings and workshops will reflect application of human rights principles, gender equality and women's empowerment, and environmental sustainability

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Nov 16, 2021: Comment cleared.

Nov 8, 2021: Please specify roles of Project Manager for components in Annex 2 (ToR) and upload separately.

Oct 19, 2021: Thank you for adding a budget table. However, please remove a budget line with unforeseeable cost with \$9,000. Please also provide us ToRs for Project Management staff to be charged to components or change such budget lines.

8/6/2020: The project is in line with the cost ranges for these enabling activities. However, per the newly updated Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle, a new requirement to provide an indicative project budget in a standardized format at CEO Endorsement/Approval has been added. Budgets should show clear distinction between: i) PMC activities, ii) monitoring and evaluation activities, iii) project budget activities, as well as: iv) which entity makes use of GEF financing to undertake them. An indicative template is provided for this purpose and can be found in p. 46 of the new guidelines. Please provide.

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf

Agency Response

16 November 2021: Roles of Project Manager are divided to Project Management and Technical Tasks (under Component 1). Annex 2 is uploaded separately.

8 November 2021: Miscellaneous budget line removed. TOR of the Project Manager annexed.

15/09/2021

The indicative budget is attached.

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: There was no deviation in the cost range.

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 CEO Endorsement Request

Nov 16, 2021: Comment cleared.

Nov 8, 2021: As the title and the budget amended, please revise the OFP letter or provide a confirmation from OFP (email).

8/6/2020: Yes, the project has been endorsed by Paula P. M'au, the OFP.

Agency Response 16 November 2021: New GEF OFP letter signed on 11 Nov 2021, with the revised title and budget is annexed to the submission package.

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 8/6/2020: N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Nov 16, 2021: Comment cleared.

Nov 8, 2021: Please address remaining comments above.

Oct 19, 2021: Please address comments on BTR and the budget table.

8/6/2020: Not yet. Please address comments above.

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

First Review	8/6/2020
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/19/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/8/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/16/2021
Additional Review (as necessary)	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations