

# Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**  
12320  
**Countries**  
Global (China, St. Kitts and Nevis, Tonga, Paraguay)  
**Project Name**

Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

4/21/2026

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Andrew Hume

**Focal Area**

International Waters

**Project Type**

EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Section I - Enabling Activity Summary**

#### **Funding elements.**

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

#### Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes. However, please adjust expected duration to read 24 months to be consistent with other BBNJ umbrella EAs.

4/24/26: Addressed

#### Agency's Comments

**FAO 4/22/26:**

The expected duration has been changed to read 24 months to be consistent with other BBNJ umbrella EAs.

#### **Cost Ranges.**

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

#### Secretariat's Comments

#### Agency's Comments

##### **Enabling activity summary.**

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

#### Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes. However, in paragraph 2 of the summary, please update the information on number of BBNJ Agreement signatories and ratifications.

4/24/26: Addressed

#### Agency's Comments

##### **FAO 4/22/26:**

The Paragraph 2 of the summary, has been updated to show the correct number of BBNJ Agreement signatories and ratifications as of April 2026 (we used [https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=XXI-10&chapter=21&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-10&chapter=21&clang=_en) as source of information).

##### **Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information**

##### **Eligibility Criteria.**

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes. Please kindly note that, during implementation, to ensure inclusion and stakeholder engagement with national and local non-state actors and stakeholders including local community-based organizations and associations, women and youth groups

#### Agency's Comments

##### **FAO 4/22/26:**

Noted with thanks.

**Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes

Agency's Comments

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes

Agency's Comments

**Section 3. Information Tables**

**GEF resource availability.**

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

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

4/21/26:

Yes

**Agency Response**

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):  
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments  
**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments  
**Rio Markers.**  
**Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?**

Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes

Agency's Comments  
**Country endorsement.**

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

Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Yes

4/30/26:

On the Letter of endorsement:

1. The China OFP LOE template removed the footnote: ?Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate.? As noted in March (June 2023 Work Program), modified LOEs cannot be accepted and will be returned. This footnote is important because it helps ensure the executing partner meets required

fiduciary and procurement standards. Please obtain an email from the OFPs confirming inclusion of this footnote in the LOE (as an alternative to requesting a new LOE).

2. There is a discrepancy between the GEF Portal and the LOE titles: China's LOE title differs from the other two (St. Kitts and Nevis, Tonga). Please confirm the correct LOE title and update the GEF Portal and/or the LOE titles so they match.

5/13/26: Addressed.

Agency's Comments

**FAO 5/12/206:**

A new LOE for China has been uploaded.

**Response to Comments**

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Council comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**STAP comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's Comments



## Agency's Comments

### **FAO 4/22/26:**

The text above the budget table in Annex B has been corrected to read 3 participating countries. Thanks for spotting the mistake.

### **FAO 5/12/26:**

1. The budget template has been changed by using the one presented in Annex 7 of the Guidelines
2. The budget table pasted in the field for description of Annex G has been deleted and a Word budget table format (no image) has been uploaded as an attachment in the required field.
3. budget lines have been adjusted and fixed applying the indications of GEF Sec.

## **Environmental and Social Safeguards.**

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

## Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Per Agency policy, no ESS required for EA.

## Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION  
RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

## Secretariat's Comments

4/21/26:

Please address above and resubmit.

4/30/26:

Please address above and resubmit.

5/13/26: All comments have been addressed. Umbrella EA is recommended for CEO Approval

## **REVIEW DATE(S)**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	4/21/2026	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	4/24/2026	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	4/30/2026	

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)  
Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO  
Endorsement**

**5/13/2026**

**Response to Secretariat  
comments**