

Collaborative platform for African nature-based tourism enterprises, conservation areas and local communities ? a response to COVID-19

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10625

Countries

Regional

Project Name

Collaborative platform for African nature-based tourism enterprises, conservation areas and local communities ? a response to COVID-19

Agencies

WWF-US

Date received by PM

12/3/2020

Review completed by PM

12/21/2020

Program Manager

Adriana Moreira

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

MSP

PIF
CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: Yes, the project is aligned and consistent with the focal area elements. Project duration is 36 months. Please, insert expected implementation start and completion dates.

Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date
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12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Noted. Expected dates added to CEO ER and Portal fields.

Expected Implementation Start Date: Jan 1, 2021

Expected completion date: Jan 1, 2024

Project description summary

2. 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 12-8-20 AM: Unclear what will be the concrete outcome of the output of Output 2.2.2 Engagement with key financing institutions and donors related to their economic stimulus/investment packages and with policy-makers in relation to Government-led economic stimulus focus?

Please simplify/clarify: 3.1 M&E plan finalized with data collection, reflection and reporting on time to aid in results-based decision making and adaptive management.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Output 2.2.1 merged with output 2.2.2 and updated in the CEO ER document ?
?Analysis of nature-based tourism and conservation dependencies, and engagement with governments and key financing institutions to develop a convincing case for investments in nature-based tourism and conservation as part of economic relief and stimulus packages?. The outcome of this output has been made clearer in the project strategy section.

Outcome 3.1 revised to ?M&E plan implemented for adaptive management.? This has been updated in the CEO ER document and project strategy section.

Changes to outputs 2.2.1 and Outcome 3.1 also updated in project budget and Results Framework.

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. 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

12-8-20 AM: Co-financing levels are satisfactory. The letter from WWF-US does not specify types of co-financing. Please provide either a revised letters representing the co-financing types as currently indicated in table C of the Portal entry

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response [WWF-US Co-finance Letter revised to include types \(\\$1,000,000 in grants and \\$220,000 in-kind\) and re-uploaded to the Portal.](#)

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: There is no proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC. Hence, for a co-financing of \$5,005,817, the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$500,000 instead of \$263,464. Please amend table.

		Sub Total (\$)	1,730,000.00	5,005,817.00
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⓘ				
GET	173,000.00	263,464.00		
Sub Total(\$)	173,000.00	263,464.00		
Total Project Cost(\$)	1,903,000.00	5,269,281.00		

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Noted. Co-financing numbers have been revised to the following to reflect proportionality:

Component 1: \$1,550,603

Component 2: \$2,713,555

Component 3: \$526,097

Subtotal: \$4,790,255

PMC: \$479,026

These changes have been reflected in table B in the CEO Endorsement Request document.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 12-21-20 AM: Yes.
Cleared

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: Please *provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided?* in the space provided below the Core Indicators table.

This project will very clearly result in GEBs for biodiversity (as clearly articulated in

GEBs section of the CER), as such, please set appropriate core indicator hectare targets.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Hectare targets under Core Indicator 4 were not provided at CEO Endorsement stage following GEF SEC PIF review comment to remove this core indicator as it does not capture direct outputs and outcomes from the project. This is because project approach and components are focused on establishing a platform and provision of technical assistance, and therefore hectare benefits would be indirect.

Justification for core indicator 11 on direct beneficiaries (20,000 by project end) is based on an estimate of the number of people in local communities and small and medium tourism enterprises (not the number of communities/enterprises themselves) that will be linked to funding opportunities by the platform. These numbers were estimated based on consultations with the CBNRM networks/NGO partners, the size of their in-country networks, an estimate of key conservation target areas within each country, and feasibility of engaging beneficiaries given the geographic scope of the project and funding available.

These explanations have been included under the Core Indicator Table in the CEO Endorsement Request document and a footnote explaining target justification for direct beneficiaries has been added in the Incremental Cost Reasoning and Global Environmental Benefits sections.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: Please describe how this project will coordinate and build off of GWP investments in NBT and diversified wildlife economic work in Africa. Please describe how this project will coordinate with the new IFC's platform for NBT financing.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

As discussed with World Bank GWP team, the following has been added to Section 1.6 on Coordination and updated in output 3.2.1 under section 2.2 in Project Strategy:

There is potential for coordination with several Global Wildlife Program child projects in Phases I and II, notably those in eastern and southern African countries which support nature-based tourism enterprise development in conservation areas. The project will coordinate with GWP World Bank team to organize a webinar early in project implementation phase to introduce the GWP project teams to the Platform and funding opportunities, as there is potential for identification of Platform support to individual beneficiaries that have been detrimentally impacted by the collapse of income streams from nature-based tourism enterprises.

Details on how the project will coordinate with IFC's platform have been modified under section 2.2, output 2.1.2

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: Please describe plans for the future housing and maintenance of this platform once the three-year GEF grant is complete. Is this something WWF plans to maintain? Or transfer to a partner? Or twilight? once the post-pandemic recovery phase is through? Please expound.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Innovation and sustainability ? partners consulted to date see value in the platform beyond the life of GEF project. Ongoing user feedback will be solicited throughout the project, including at project meetings, to determine whether there would be value in maintaining the platform beyond the GEF project. If there is consensus to maintain the platform, WWF will undertake a process to identify and hand off the platform to an interested party, potentially including existing partners such as RCMRD, or WWF itself.

This has been reflected in the corresponding section in the CEO ER document and Section 3.6 of the Project Document.

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: The map provided is not very accurate. Please, attach a map that indicates the project target areas with more precision, including geo-referenced information.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

[2 new maps added to show protected areas and key tourism sites across the 11 project countries.](#)

[CEO and Project Document updated accordingly.](#)

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

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

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

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

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

1-6-21 AM: Please, we noticed that the although the gender action plan indicate that the project will track sex-disaggregated gender indicators and that it expects to set sex-disaggregated targets for beneficiaries. In the section on gender in the portal, however, the project has not ticked the box indicating that they intend to do so. Please a tick the box as appropriate and return the project. Thanks.

1-7-21 AM: Thank you! Cleared.

1.

Agency Response

1/6/2021

Box has been ticked in the CEO Endorsement Request in the Portal.

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: Given the central importance of private sector leveraging and engagement both as beneficiaries of the platform (investments in SMEs etc) as well as key investors a more complete treatment of the project?s approach to private sector engagement (current relationships to build on, approaches to engagement and participation, barriers to entry etc) is requested.

12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response [Further details on private sector engagement](#) have been added to section 2.2, output 2.1.2, as well as to the private sector engagement section in the CEO ER.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-8-20 AM: PM cleared the proposed self-execution arrangement for this project. The explanation/justification was reviewed and approved.

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Cleared

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Calendar of expected reflows (if NGI is used)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 12-21-20 AM: Cleared

Agency Response

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) 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 in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12-21-20 AM: Yes. Overall document issues resolved. CEO Endorsement recommended.

1-6-21 AM: Please, there is a minor comment under the Gender section that needs to be addressed. Thanks!

1-7-21 AM: Issue resolved. Cleared for CEO Endorsement.

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

First Review
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations