



# Strengthening Conservation of Primary Forests through Partnership Enhancement and Coordination of Support

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11495

**Countries**

Global

**Project Name**

Strengthening Conservation of Primary Forests through Partnership Enhancement and Coordination of Support

**Agencies**

IUCN

**Date received by PM**

1/30/2024

**Review completed by PM**

2/7/2024

**Program Manager**

Pascal Martinez

**Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Project Type**

MSP

## CEO Approval Request

### Part I - General Project Information

**1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 1, 2024:**

Please, remove the mention of "Tropical Dry forests" and "temperate forests" in the taxonomy. These key words only appear once in the taxonomy and are never used in the text.

**March 18, 2024:**

The comment is not addressed. Please remove the mention of "Tropical Dry forests" and "Temperate Forests" in the taxonomy under the section "General Project Information" (beginning of the Portal entry).

**April 4, 2024:**

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:** The mention of tropical dry forest and temperate forests have been removed.

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 18, 2024 review comment:** We have removed mention (deselected) of "Tropical Dry forests" and "Temperate Forests" in the taxonomy under the section "General Project Information" (beginning of the Portal entry).

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 1, 2024:**

Considering the importance of primary forest to address the climate change, please tag the CCM as Principal objective (2).

**March 18, 2024:**

Thank for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency ResponseIUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment: Completed - tagged CCM as Principle objective (2)

**2. Project Summary.**

- a) 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?
- b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project, is well written and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 1, 2024:**

At the end of the first paragraph, please add "LD" to be consistent with the Rio Markers.

**March 18, 2024:**

Thank for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency ResponseIUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment: Completed - added "LD" at end of first paragraph.

**3. Project Description Overview**

- 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?
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and appropriately funded?
- d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10%? If above 10%, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 1, 2024:**

a) The text provided under "Project objective" is actually a copy paste of the project summary. Please focus on the main objective and present it in a concise manner (one sentence can be enough).

b) Yes, the project components and outputs have been discussed upstream with GEF Secretariat. Cleared.

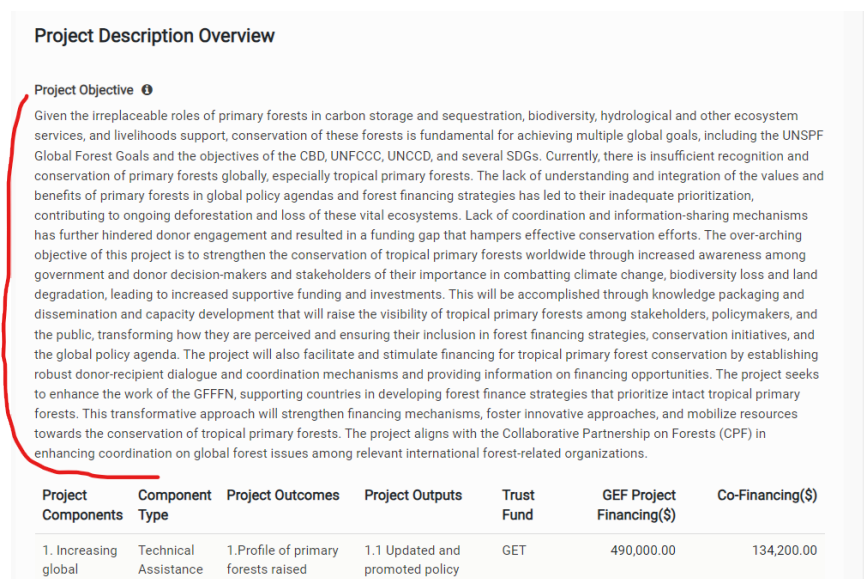
c) Please make explicit in the Project Description Overview table the consideration of gender equity where relevant. In particular, please reflect the gender dimensions with respect to Outputs 2.6, 3.1 and 3.3. Also, please ensure under M&E that gender-related results are monitored and reported on.

d) No, the GEF financing contribution to PMC is 10% while the co-financing contribution is 7.8%. Please either decrease GEF contribution or increase co-financing contribution so that each contribution to PMC is proportional.

e) Yes, cleared.

### March 18, 2024:

a) We don't see the difference from the previous version (the objective is still a copy-past of the project summary). Please address this comment.



**Project Description Overview**

**Project Objective**

Given the irreplaceable roles of primary forests in carbon storage and sequestration, biodiversity, hydrological and other ecosystem services, and livelihoods support, conservation of these forests is fundamental for achieving multiple global goals, including the UNSPF Global Forest Goals and the objectives of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and several SDGs. Currently, there is insufficient recognition and conservation of primary forests globally, especially tropical primary forests. The lack of understanding and integration of the values and benefits of primary forests in global policy agendas and forest financing strategies has led to their inadequate prioritization, contributing to ongoing deforestation and loss of these vital ecosystems. Lack of coordination and information-sharing mechanisms has further hindered donor engagement and resulted in a funding gap that hampers effective conservation efforts. The over-arching objective of this project is to strengthen the conservation of tropical primary forests worldwide through increased awareness among government and donor decision-makers and stakeholders of their importance in combatting climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, leading to increased supportive funding and investments. This will be accomplished through knowledge packaging and dissemination and capacity development that will raise the visibility of tropical primary forests among stakeholders, policymakers, and the public, transforming how they are perceived and ensuring their inclusion in forest financing strategies, conservation initiatives, and the global policy agenda. The project will also facilitate and stimulate financing for tropical primary forest conservation by establishing robust donor-recipient dialogue and coordination mechanisms and providing information on financing opportunities. The project seeks to enhance the work of the GFFFN, supporting countries in developing forest finance strategies that prioritize intact tropical primary forests. This transformative approach will strengthen financing mechanisms, foster innovative approaches, and mobilize resources towards the conservation of tropical primary forests. The project aligns with the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in enhancing coordination on global forest issues among relevant international forest-related organizations.

Project Components	Component Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-Financing(\$)
1. Increasing global	Technical Assistance	1.Profile of primary forests raised	1.1 Updated and promoted policy	GET	490,000.00	134,200.00

c) Thank for clarifying the gender approach including in the M&E Framework in the Annex C . Cleared.

d) GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional are not proportional but the Co-Financing contributions to PMC is higher. Cleared.

### April 4, 2024:

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

## Agency Response

### **IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

- a) The Project objective has been revised.
- c) The gender dimensions with respect have been incorporated in the project description.
- d) PMC co-financing is now proportional to the GEF contribution.

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 18, 2024 review comment:** The project objective has been updated and the correct text has been added.

## **4. Project Outline**

### **A. Project Rationale**

- a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?**
- b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**
- c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

### **February 1, 2024:**

- a) Very clear and straightforward presentation. Please consider the following comments:
  - a.1. Under barrier 2, the following sentence is not clear "There is a clear lack of policy specificity and coherence and pressure on forest land from other land uses such as agriculture and mining." (from "pressure..."). Please clarify.
  - a.2. Please move the sections "c. proposed alternative scenario with expected outcomes and components", "d. alignment with GEF focal areas and/or IP strategies" and "e. incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing" under the relevant parts of the project description respectively under "B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION", under "C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES" and under "B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION".
  - a.3. As described, most of the baseline refers to previous sections on the environmental problems and barriers. The baseline should include a presentation of the current environment of the project interventions (existing stakeholders, platforms and fora - such as GFFFN,

UNFF and Conventions, CPF; initiatives - such as those from IUCN, GU&WF, FAO, CIFOR, FCLP...) and how the project will fit/build on this landscape. Please elaborate further on this important aspects.

b) In addition to the indigenous people, the relevant stakeholders are unclear. Please briefly describe the relevant main stakeholders including their role in the system and how they can contribute to the project objectives (this is related to the comment above and can be addressed in the same text under the baseline scenario).

c) N/A

### **March 18, 2024:**

a) Thank you for the consideration and additional information. Cleared.

b) Thank you for the additional information under the baseline scenario and in the uploaded stakeholder engagement plan. Cleared.

### Agency Response

#### **IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

a.1. The policy aspects under barrier 2 were clarified with additional information.

a.2. The sections ?c?, ?d? and ?e? have been moved under Project Description and Alignment with GEF-8 strategies in line with the comments.

a.3. The relevant CPF and other initiatives have been incorporated under b. Baseline scenario.

b. The stakeholders have been identified and incorporated under the Project Description and baseline scenario. An additional Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been provided as Annex O.

### **5 B. Project Description**

**5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the thrust and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust solution and listing the key assumptions underlying these?**

**b) 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?**

**c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks are properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**

**d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?**

**e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and**

local levels sufficiently described?

**f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?**

**g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this MSP)?**

**h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?**

**i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component description/s?**

**j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**

**k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?**

**l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

a) Yes. As the TOC diagram is difficult to read in the Portal entry, please upload this diagram in the document tab of the Portal.

b) Partially presented under "e. incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing". Please briefly describe how the project will build on the existing baseline requested above (existing relevant partners, initiatives and fora).

c)

c.1. The project description refers to a generic expression of primary forests. Please, clarify that all activities, especially those related to the CFB IP will deal with tropical primary forests. The CFB IP does not include temperate and boreal forests.

c.2. For a better clarity, in the Output 2.5, please replace "PFDs" with "5 regional Programs". Please ensure this change is reflected throughout the project description including the Project Description Overview, the Project Result Framework and the budget.

d) Yes, if the comments above on the baseline and how the project will build on this baseline are addressed.

e) This project is at global level and its potential socioeconomic benefits are indirect at the national and local levels. Cleared.

f) The financing looks adequate to meet the project objectives. Nevertheless, as presented, the budget doesn't present the nature of financing and the eligibility of expenses can't be checked. Upon receipt of the right budget table in Annex G, further comments may be formulated.

g) The strategic approach of this MSP on policy and funding at global level, the improved knowledge, the capacity building at global and national level including for monitoring, contribute to create the conditions for resilience of the project results. Cleared.

h) As mentioned above, the description of the stakeholders is not clear. Please describe within the components all relevant stakeholders and their respective role in the project.

i) Yes, cleared.

j) Knowledge improvement, learning and strategic communication constitute important outputs of the project (in particular under the components 1 and 2). In addition, please briefly describe the communication strategy/plan for the project. Also please clarify the budget and implementation timeline for key KM&L and communications deliverables across all components. This can be done by including a simple table in the KM&L section.

k) Yes, in a general manner at global scale. Updated policy guidance, coordination and capacity building at national level on financial plans aims at enhancing policy coherence. Cleared.

l) Yes, cleared.

**March 18, 2024:**

a), b) Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

c.2. Not addressed. For the output 2.5, the project description keeps referring to "knowledge sharing between PFDs of the CFB IP" . The PFD was the vehicle used for Council approval. In the Output 2.5, please replace "PFDs of the CFB IP" with "5 regional Programs of the CFB IP".

d) Yes, cleared.

f) Thank you for uploading the budget. Please address the following comments:

f.1. We note a significant expense "Senior Officer" (23% of the project budget) which is charged under the project components and not under the PMC. Please clarify in the budget table the role of this Officer in each component ensuring he/she is not in charge of any project management tasks.

f.2. The "Project Associate (PMC, Knowledge management, inception workshop)" is mostly charged under the Component 2. Please justify and clarify in the table this expense as a



contribution to the component 2 and not to the project management. If this staff is expected to contribute to the project management, then the related expense should be charged to the PMC.

h) Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

j) We take note of the KM plan uploaded in the Portal. Nevertheless the plan and key deliverables are not budgeted. Please clarify the budget of the plan and key deliverables. Please also copy the text and the table (with key deliverables, timeline and cost) in the Portal entry under the section "E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS"/"Knowledge management" to make the information accessible in the CEO Approval document.

#### **April 4, 2024:**

c.2. Thank for the consideration. The comment has been addressed in the Project Description Overview table but not in the rest of the project description. But this is not critical. Cleared.

f.1. and f.2. thank you for the amendments and clarification with the ToRs. Cleared.

j. Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

#### **Agency Response**

##### **IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

a. A TOC has been presented as separate annex K

b. A description of ongoing initiatives and projects upon which the project will build on has been added in the section "e incremental/additional cost reasoning". A list of ongoing initiatives has been presented as Annex M.

c.1. The references to temperate and boreal forests have been removed. The project description and background now refer to tropical primary forests.

c.2. PFDs have now been replaced with "5 regional programs" throughout the ProDoc.

d. The comments on baseline have been addressed.

f. Annex G with the correct budget has been submitted.

h. A stakeholder engagement plan has been submitted as Annex O.

j. A KM&L strategy has been submitted as Annex N

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 18, 2024 review comments:** The following changes have been made to address March 18, 2024 comments:

C.2: Output 2.1.5 on the Project Description has been modified as requested.

f.1. The budget disaggregation from the Griffith University has been added to the budget sheet (Annex G) & Terms of Reference for each position has been provided.

f.2. The role of the Project Associate has been clarified and the budget adjusted accordingly. A Terms of Reference for all staff positions have been provided.

j. A revised KM & L plan with key deliverables, timeline, budget and the agency responsible has been uploaded under Section E.

## **5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.**

**a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?**

**b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?**

**c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

a) Yes, cleared.

b) Yes for this kind of MSP at global level. Cleared.

c) Yes, if clarification is provided as mentioned above on the articulation with relevant non-GEF supported initiatives and platforms.

**March 18, 2024:**

c) Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

c) Relevant non-GEF initiatives and platforms have been provided within the document Annex M.

## **5.3 Core indicators**

**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 targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core**

indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

a) Yes considering the global nature of this MSP that will focus on beneficiaries (the number of 1,500 needs to be confirmed and consistent throughout all the project description as mentioned above). Cleared.

b) Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

a) The number of beneficiaries has been further clarified in the project description and has been made consistent throughout the project document.

#### **5.4 Risks**

a) **Are climate and other main risks relevant to the project identified and adequately described? Are mitigation measures outlined and realistic? Is there any omission?**

b) **Are the key risks that might affect implementation and adequately rated?**

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

a) Considering the different nature of the executing partners, please consider whether it would be relevant to add a risk on the implementation of the agreements between these partners.

b) Yes, cleared.

c) Yes, cleared.

**March 18, 2024:**

a) Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

a. The risk on implementation has been identified and added under risk under Risk to Project Implementation.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

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

**6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or LDCF/SCCF strategy?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 1, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**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 comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**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 comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

No. Please identify briefly the main targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project will contribute to and explain how.

**March 18, 2024:**

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

The contribution of this project towards the Kunming-Montreal GBF has been added under the ?C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities?

**7 D. Policy Requirements**

**7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 2, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

No, please upload the Gender Action Plan in the document tab of the Portal.

**March 18, 2024:**

We take note of the information included in the project description. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

Project' Gender Action Plan is contained in Section B: Project Description

**7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

The Agency confirmed that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement. Please upload this plan in the document tab of the Portal. In addition, to outlining the roles and means of engagement, please note that the plan should also include information on stakeholders that have been engaged and consulted in the project development.

**March 18, 2024:**

Partially addressed. Thank you for uploading the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The plan mentions "information gathered during the consultation phase". Please briefly indicate who was consulted, how and when. Also please clarify what "TRI" means in the expression "The TRI Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been guided..." in the uploaded stakeholder engagement plan.

**April 4, 2024:**

Thank you for the uploaded engagement plan. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

A stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared and provided as a document under Annex O

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 18 review comment:**

An updated stakeholder engagement plan has been provided under Section D, Policy Requirements. This Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been amended to include the list of the stakeholders who were consulted during the PPG stage.

The reference to TRI has been removed.

**8 Annexes**

**Annex A: Financing Tables**

**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: 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 comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
N/A

Agency Response  
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response  
**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**February 7, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response  
**8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**  
**a) Is PPG reimbursement requested and if so, is it within the eligible cap of USD 50,000?**  
**b) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**February 7, 2024:**

a) Yes, cleared.

b) The PPG should be equally provided by the 3 Focal Areas (considering each Focal Area set-aside contribute the same amount to the project). Please adjust accordingly.

**March 19, 2024:**

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

PPG grant sourcing has been revised to draw equally from 3 GEF Focal Areas as directed.

**8.3 Source of Funds**

**Does the sources of funds table match with the OFP's LOE? Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A (set aside)

Agency Response

**8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines? e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**Annex B: Endorsements**

**8.5 a) Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A (This is a global project)

Agency Response



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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

**8.6 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project before the PIF submission?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

**Annex C: Project Results Framework**

**8.7 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?**

**b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of the budget (too high? Too low?)**

**c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?**

**d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**February 2, 2024:**

a) No. Please include the core indicator 11 (with the exact name of the core indicator "Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments"). Also, the number of beneficiaries and the sex disaggregation (respectively 1,000 and 40%) are different in Project Results Framework in the core indicator table (respectively 1,500 and 50%). Please provide consistent numbers.

b) Yes, cleared.

c) We appreciate the intent to engage with women, girls, and disadvantaged groups in the project. However, even if the intent is described for the three components, the language on gender equality and women empowerment in the result framework is absent (beyond the 40% of beneficiaries). Gender equality and women empowerment should be clearly

integrated in the result framework at the level of outcomes and outputs. Please complete accordingly.

d) Yes, cleared.

**March 19, 2024:**

a) In the Project Result Framework (Annex C), we only see 1000 beneficiaries. Please clarify in the table where the other 500 are and write where relevant exactly the name of the GEF core indicator which is "GEF Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments".

c) Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

**April 4, 2024:**

a) Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

- a. The total number of beneficiaries has been clarified and made consistent throughout the project document.
  
- c. The Gender equality and women empowerment has been incorporate under the Components description under B. Project Description.

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 19 review comment:**

The revised Project Results framework (Annex C) has been submitted with the core indicator reference directly into the Portal CEO Approval Request document.

**Annex E: Project map and coordinates**

**8.8 Are geo-referenced information and maps provided indicating where the project interventions will take place ?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A (the project support global policy and funding framework and doesn't include any investment in specific geographies)

Agency Response

**Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Screen and Rating**

**8.9 Have safeguard screening document and/or other ESS document(s) attached and been uploaded to the GEF Portal?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**Annex G: GEF Budget template**

**8.10 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?**

**b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

**c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**February 7, 2024:**

a) No, in the budget as presented, we cannot check the nature of financing and the eligibility of expenses. Please provide the budget following the GEF template (Appendix A of Annex 7 of the GEF Guidelines on project and program cycle policy - GEF/C.59/Inf.03). Upon receipt of the right excel budget table, specific comments may be formulated.

**March 19, 2024:**

Thank you for the new budget uploaded in the document tab of the Portal. In order to make the budget visible in the Portal entry, please copy-past the budget in the Portal entry under the Annex G.

**April 4, 2024:**

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency Response

**IUCN response to GEF Sec Feb 1 review comment:**

Budget revised and uploaded using GEF Excel template, converted to Word format as directed by GEF Portal

**IUCN response to GEF Sec March 19 review comment:**

The budget has been added under Annex G directly in the Portal entry

**Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes**

**8.11 a) 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.**

**b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.**

**c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

**Agency Response**

**Additional Annexes**

**9. GEFSEC DECISION**

**9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation Is the project recommended for approval**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**February 22, 2024:**

Not yet. Please address the comments raised above.

In addition, please remove any cents from the financing and project information tables such as below:

PPG Amount: (e)	34,597.46	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)	3,113.78
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	2,217,711.24		

**Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$)	PPG Agency Fee (\$)
34,597.46	3,113.78

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	34,597.46	3,113.78	37,711.24
Total PPG Amount(\$)					34,597.46	3,113.78	37,711.24

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GET/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		Amount Committed
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	
Stakeholder engagement and travel	11,597.46	11,597.46	
Development support_Consultant	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Internal administration support	3,000.00	3,000.00	
Total	34,597.46	34,597.46	0.00

**March 19, 2024:**

Not yet. Please address the remaining comments.

**April 4, 2024:**

The remaining comments have been addressed. The project is now recommended for CEO approval.

**9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**9.3 Review Dates**

	1SMSP CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
<b>First Review</b>	2/22/2024	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	3/19/2024	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	4/4/2024	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**1SMSP CEO  
Approval**

**Response to Secretariat  
comments**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**