

Building the resilience of forest biodiversity to the threats of climate change in Tanzania?s Nature Forest Reserves

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10690

Countries

Tanzania

Project Name

Building the resilience of forest biodiversity to the threats of climate change in Tanzania?s Nature Forest Reserves

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

2/10/2022

Review completed by PM

8/26/2022

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

FSP

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
February 18, 2022

Addressed.

Agency Response
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
February 18, 2022

Yes, the project objective and the components are unchanged from the PIF. Adjustments to the outputs and activities are minor and explained, due to PPG results.

Cleared.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

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

May 6, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

- Cofinancing is in a similar range than at PIF level, however some changes are significant: were you not able to confirm the cofinancing from the WB (\$200,000), Germany (\$200,000), WWF Regional Office (\$1,400,000)? Please, explain.

- See the item related to the budget. The role of cofinancing for baseline investments, transport, and sustainability is questioned/

Agency Response

Agency Response : 4 May 2022

On cofinancing:

Some of the cofinancing anticipated at PIF could not be realized, either due to the projects (from which the cofinance would derive), having ended (as in the case with the support envisaged from the German Government), or not coming to fruition (as in the case of the envisaged support from WWF Tanzania, due to a decision to submit the proposal only under the GEF 8 replenishment cycle, rather than GEF 7), or due to changed spatial priorities (as in the case of the World Bank-supported REGROW project) ? see itemized explanations below.

To offset these losses, the Govt of Tanzania and the UNDP TZ Country Office sought other sources of cofinance and were successful in securing a commitment of \$600,000 from The Nature Conservancy -TZ (also see description below). Whilst this does not completely offset the reduction in cofinance that was anticipated at PIF it is further envisaged, with preliminary meetings already held in late February 2022 (after the initial submission of the Prodoc package to GEFSEC), that a new source of cofinance secured by WWF Tanzania, working in association with WWF Denmark, will be realized early during implementation, through investments in a forest carbon project (see below for further detail).

A detailed explanation of these changes has been added to the text in the CEO ER, under Table C.

Cofinance commitments envisaged at PIF but NOT secured:

World Bank (IDA): Investment mobilized (loan) - \$200,000.

The anticipated investment mobilized represented a portion of the US\$150m in loan funding for the *Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth* (REGROW) project (2017-2023), through which operational management, tourism infrastructure and tourism services in protected areas in Tanzania's Southern Circuit are being strengthened. It had been anticipated during PIF development that project-targeted NFRs such as Mwambesi, Rondo and Pindirol may be included under this project. However, the spatial focus of the REGROW project has settled on National Parks such as Ruaha, Udzungwa Mountains, Katavi, Mikumi and Mahale. Towards the end of the PPG process for the current submission (GEF ID 10690), there was a changeover of staff in the World Bank Office in Tanzania, which posed challenges in following up on the provisional discussions on cofinance through the REGROW project that had been held during PIF development. The UNDP CO, TFS and project team will, however, maintain close linkages with the WB team who are now coordinating the REGROW project in order to ensure cross-learning and alignment and, possibly, a future commitment of cofinancing to the forest nature reserves project. Whether or not this is secured, the REGROW project represents a significant baseline investment in strengthening operational effectiveness and tourism infrastructure and development in protected areas in Tanzania's forested landscapes

German Government: Investment Mobilized (grant) - \$200,000. At the time of PIF submission, this cofinance, which would have accrued from support for the advancement of Tanzania's NAP process, had yet to be confirmed. This support came to a close before submission of the final Project Document package and was, therefore, no longer available as cofinance. Instead, it can be considered as adding to the baseline investments in forest conservation in mitigation of climate change to which the GEF project investment will be incremental.

WWF ROA: Investment mobilized (grant) - \$1.4 million. The anticipated investment mobilized from WWF ROA (\$1,400,000) was linked to restoring degraded forests in NFRs and their adjacent natural forests, under the *Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in Africa Initiative*, which was under development at the time of PIF submission. However, a decision was subsequently taken to submit the project proposal under GEF-8, not GEF-7, which means that funding is unlikely to come on line (if it is secured at all) until later in the lifespan of the UNDP-supported project. Potential exists for future cofinancing through a forest carbon project under development by WWF (see below).

New cofinance commitment, not anticipated at PIF, secured as submission:

The investment mobilized from TNC (\$600,000) reflects the funding for complementary community-led activities being undertaken by TNC (and other partners) under the *Northern Tanzania Rangelands Initiative* (NTRI), including: helping hunter-gatherer and pastoralist communities secure rights to their land by obtaining Certificates of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO); generating income from carbon offsets to incentivize forest conservation; negotiating easements for access to grazing; and implementing non-destructive HWC mitigation measures.

Potential new sources of cofinance to be secured early in implementation:

WWF-TCO is partnering with WWF Denmark to develop a forest carbon project in response to a funding opportunity launched by a private company "VELUX Group" - a Danish roof window manufacturer.

This is a historic 20-year carbon project intervention (2021 -2041), which will be implemented in Uzigua NFR (which is targeted in the UNDP-supported project) and Ruvu South FR. In March 2022, UNDP CO convened a meeting with WWF, the VPO-DoE, and TFS to discuss potential alignment between this WWF-supported project and the forest carbon project envisaged under Component 2 (Output 2.2.1) of this GEF submission, and follow-up meetings will be held once the UNDP-supported project has been endorsed by the GEF CEO. Cofinance commitment will be sought and if secured will be reported in the first PIR of the UNDP-supported project.

On the role of cofinancing for baseline investments, transport and sustainability:

Given the changes described above, the amount of cofinance for which formal commitments were secured at submission (See Prodoc Annex 14) was reduced by \$1.2 million from that initially anticipated at PIF. The project component most affected by this is Component 2, due to the loss of the cofinance that had been anticipated from WWF ? the amount of cofinance for Component 1 has in fact increased slightly over the PIF value, and the amounts for Component 3 and PMCs has remained unchanged. The cofinance that is still available for Component 2 will support baseline investments in operational infrastructure and equipment in the NFRs (Outcome 2.1). It is expected (with a fair degree of confidence) that new cofinance to be secured through the WWF carbon finance project will boost the amount available for supporting delivery under Outcome 2.2, and since this project has a 20-year timeframe this bodes well for sustainability. A key Output under Component 2, Outcome 2.2 is the development and operationalization of Conservation Investment Plans (CIPs) for each of the NFRs to secure sustainable funding streams into the future. Building on the initial estimations that were made during PPG (See Annex 21.2), and through application of the BIOFIN methodology, the CIPs will determine financing needs and gaps; identify options for optimizing existing funding streams; identify, analyze and prioritize a suite of new funding solutions (based on an assessment of their financial and technical feasibility); and identify potential investors.

UNDP RESPONSE 10 June 2022 to Quality Control comment:

Please, address the points below from the Quality Control:

1. Co-financing (comments provided by Seo-Jeong):

- Tanzania Forest Fund:

o change ?Other? to ?Recipient country government?

o change ?Grant? to ?Public investment?

Thank you for the feedback and guidance. The co-financing table above has been updated in the GEF portal and in relevant places in the Prodoc and CEO ER.

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
February 18, 2022

Yes

Agency Response
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
May 6, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

- The table is available in the request for CEO endorsement. However, in the portal, the table is not readable. Please, correct.

Agency Response
Agency Response : 4 May 2022

Our apologies for this inconvenience. The readability of the Table has been corrected in the Portal.

UNDP RESPONSE 10 June 2022 to Quality Control comment:

3. Status of utilization of PPG: as requested, please provide more details about expenditure categories of the PPG spending report - As an example we are sharing the utilization of PPG table for another project.

Thank you for the feedback and guidance. The revised table below is now posted under Annex C of CEO ER

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	Amount Budgeted	Amount Committed	Amount Spent	Amount Undisbursed
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews				
Technical Consultants				
1. Forest Protected Areas Specialist (deputy team leader)				
2. Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation Expert				
3. PA Financing Expert				
4. Community Consultation Expert with good knowledge of stakeholder engagement, Gender Mainstreaming and social safeguards	57,000.00	57,000.00	56,416.06	
5. Social and Environmental Safeguards Expert - (International consultant)				
Travel	27,000.00	27,000.00	26,138.87	
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes				
1. Project Design Expert with specialization in Biodiversity/ NRM/ Conservation (team leader)	43,000.00	43,000.00	42,924.00	
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report Delivery of final outputs				
Workshops/trainings	23,000.00	23,000.00	22,581.74	
Total	150,000.00	150,000.00	148,060.67	1

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
February 18, 2022

The same core indicators announced at PIF level are maintained. The targets have been slightly adjusted, but stay in the same range.

Cleared.

Agency Response
UNDP RESPONSE 10 June 2022 to Quality Control comment:

2. Core Indicators (comments provided by Omid):

a. Please request the agency to include METT scores under core indicator 1.2 in the core indicator table

Baseline scores METT scores as calculated during PPG have been inserted under the ?At endorsement? column under Core Indicator 1.2.

b. Please request the agency to correct the target on the results framework under core indicator 1. The target in the core indicator table is 219,244 ha but in the results framework is 2194 ha.

We apologize for the typographic error in the previous submission. - The correct amount (219,244 ha) is now reflected under the Project results framework table of the CEO ER.

c. The target for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated under core indicator 6 is not consistent with the reported target under the results framework target.

We apologize for the misalignment. The correct amount (8,394,689 t) is now reflected under the target for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated under table on Core Indicators of CEO ER - indicator 6 and Annex 15

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
February 18, 2022

Yes

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
February 18, 2022

Yes

Agency Response

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

February 18, 2022

The assumption of the project is that better connected, and more effectively managed, National Forest Reserves (NFRs) will improve the resilience of their forest habitats to the risks and hazards associated with climate change. In this view, the project seeks to strengthen the local operational capacities of nine climate-vulnerable, low-capacity NFRs to: 1) implement management measures that will reduce the impacts of emerging threats to biodiversity as a result of climate change; and 2) test alternative income-generating activities that could help finance the continued and sustainable implementation of these threat reduction measures in the targeted NFRs.

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

February 18, 2022

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

May 6, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

Yes. However, please, see the questions on the baseline and cofinancing in the item related to the budget.

Agency Response

Agency Response : 4 May 2022

The questions related to baseline and cofinancing have been responded to under Item 4 above, and the Item on Budget, below.

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
February 18, 2022

Yes

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
February 18, 2022

The integration of climate change vulnerabilities into local planning and management approaches of NFRs is innovative. Innovation is also present in the design of income generating activities with local communities.

Sustainability is a challenge. The GEF agency made a demonstration based on the anchorage of project results into the institutional and policy framework. to be monitored.

There is a strong potential for scaling up to the whole national network of NFRs and their buffer zones.

Cleared.

Agency Response

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
February 18, 2022

Yes. Coordinates are available, as well as maps. Very useful. Thanks.

Agency Response

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

NA

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

February 18, 2022

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis and engagement process was undertaken during the PPG phase.

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

February 18, 2022

A comprehensive gender analysis and plan was developed during the PPG phase.

Cleared.

Agency Response

GEFSEC comment - June 27, 2022

i. In Output 1.1.1, on FMPs: add: gender-responsive, or the phrase "promote gender equality?;

UNDP Response to PPO comment - July 26, 2022

Noted with thanks, all the necessary changes have been updated in the relevant places in the Prodoc and CEO ER.

i) Output 1.1.1: The following changes have been made in ProDoc to the outputs to engender component 1 in line with the gender action plan

Paragraph 80. Under this output, the project will assist the TFS in consultatively preparing climate resilient Forest management plans (FMPs) for the nine project-supported NFRs, with the full, effective and meaningful participation of communities in reserve-adjacent villages. The project will promote gender equality and ensure that at least 40% of stakeholders engaged in the preparation of the FMPS will be women.

Paragraph 81. Gender responsive FMPs will be formulated for each of the NFRs, following the standard TFS template for forest management plans.

UNDP RESPONSE 10 June 2022 to Quality Control comment:

4. Gender (comment provided by Verona): To ensure effective gender mainstreaming, please reflect gender equality considerations in project components 1 and 2 as already reflected in the Gender Action Plan.

To clarify the gender equality considerations (as specified in the gender action plan) under project components 1 and 2, the following additions have been made to the Prodoc and CEO ER (blue highlighted text):

Parag 175: The gender action plan recommends gender mainstreaming actions such as:

? Ensuring that the Forest Management Plans (Output 1.1.1) and Conservation Investment Plans (Output 2.1.1) for NFRs include strategies and activities that will enable and finance the equitable involvement of men and women in the implementation of the plans.

? Actively encouraging the equitable use of women labour and supervisors from reserve-adjacent villages in project-supported construction, maintenance and conservation works undertaken in NFRs (Outputs 1.1.3, 2.1.2, and 2.2.1).

? Optimising opportunities for the employment, training and equipping of women as forest guards and forest rangers (Output 1.1.2).

? Ensuring that women-owned and/or managed businesses participate equitably in the development of income-generating activities in and around NFRs (Output 2.2.1).

? Ensuring that the reach of project-funded training and capacity development programs will include women and women-headed households from reserve-adjacent villages (cross-cutting).

? Advocating for an increase in the number of women involved in the collection of baseline and end-of-project socio-economic, bio-physical and land use data (Output 3.1.2).

? Collaborating with the project-contracted businesses to continually develop and implement mechanisms which may further strengthen the capacities of women and women-headed households in reserve-adjacent villages (Cross-cutting under Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.2 and 2.2.1).

? Ensuring that the interests of women and women-headed households in reserve-adjacent villages are adequately represented on reserve management committees and are actively involved in the development and implementation of JMAs (Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.2.1)

? Contributing to building the resilience of women-headed households in the NFR-adjacent villages to the impacts of climate change (cross-cutting)

? Wherever possible, procuring professional, technical and management services from suitably qualified and experienced female national consultants and women-owned businesses (Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.2 and 2.2.1)

? Ensuring that women-owned and/or managed businesses participate equitably in the procurement of project-funded equipment, technical services and infrastructure (Outputs 1.1.3, 2.1.2 and 2.2.1).

In addition, the following text has been incorporated under the description of project Components 1 and 2 under Section IV of the Prodoc: Results and Partnerships to ensure effective gender mainstreaming

Component 1

Para 80: The project will aim to ensure that at least 50% of stakeholders engaged in the preparation of the FMPS will be women

Para 85: GEF funding will be used to assist the TFS in the phased development of: (a) a functional complement of forest rangers in each NFR that are adequately trained, equipped and deployed ? with at least 50% of training and mentoring opportunities catering to the specific needs and capacities of women

Para 86 (iii): Develop and implement a gender-sensitive training and mentoring program (basic-intermediate-advanced, including training in human-rights related aspects and use of gender-fair language) for the forest ranger and technical staff in NFRs (see Table 3

below) and any village-based forest guards that are mandated to support the NFR forest rangers, with annual follow-up training

Para 89: basic furnishings and equipment for the ranger outposts (e.g. Battery packs, office equipment, bedding, chairs, etc. Will be procured from tfs pre-approved suppliers, with attention given to ensuring that women-owned and/or managed businesses participate equitably in procurement of equipment, provision of technical and/or management services and installation of infrastructure.

Para 94: At least 50% of participants in training will be women and 30% of short-term labour opportunities will be afforded to women

Para 98: In all activities the project will work to ensure that women are able to participate equitably and fully, in line with targets set in the Gender Action Plan (Annex 11).

Para 99: At least 50% of participating individuals will be women.

para: 100 (ix) b-Optimise socio-economic benefits for village households, giving equitable attention to women-headed households,

Para 100 (x) Establish formal joint co-management structures on which women are equitably represented in each NFR that can act as a multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate broader community, private sector and local government participation in the reserve management

Component 2:

Para 108: The project will work to ensure that women participate fully and fairly (at least 50% of participants/beneficiaries should be women) in development of CIPs, development of the tourism master plan and income-generating activities, provision of short-term labour to demarcate the reserve boundaries and upgrade/maintain roads and footpaths in the targeted NFRs.

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
February 18, 2022**

Yes. The private sector is involved at different levels of the project: management of buffer zones, development of income generating activities, recreational and tourism activities, and the valorization of non-destructive use of NFRs.

Cleared.

Agency Response

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

February 18, 2022

A risk analysis is included, with the inclusion of the COVID-19 situation.

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

May 6, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

- In our understanding, 1) UNDP is the Implementing Agency, 2) The Environment Division of the Vice President's Office (VPO) is the executing partner, 3) VPO delegates responsibility for the direct execution of the project to the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency. Please, confirm and correct the associated text in the portal and the project document.

- However, we understand that UNDP will provide execution-support services. The costs of these services will be covered by UNDP's cofinancing. These arrangements have been discussed upstream between UNDP and the GEFSEC and agreed by GPU management.

- Based on the information we received, we understand that the request came from VPO, especially to manage the identification and recruitment of international

consultants, manage the procurement of international goods and services, and manage the direct payments of procurement managed by the government. Please, confirm.

- In this case, see the excel budget, we do not understand why VPO is considered as the executing agency that will receive the funds in the excel table (see the last page entitled ?GEF budget?): It does not seem correct to present VPO as the receiver of 100% of GEF funds (4,837,010 US\$): 1) procurement of international goods and services will be procured by UNDP (motorcycles, IT equipment) and 2) Direct payments will be made on several procurements conducted by the government (support to community development activities, carbon finance brokerage, carbon finance development, engineering/building companies, tourism consultant, business planning consultant, nature-based tourism consultant, carbon project development, climatological research, radio communications. The budget of these activities (\$2,713000, from GEF) will not be received by VPO. Please, clarify

Agency Response

Agency Response : 4 May 2022

On implementation and execution arrangements:

We confirm that: (i) UNDP is the GEF Implementing Agency; (ii) the VPO-DoE is the GoT Executing Agency (referred to in UNDP documents as the Implementing Partner); and (iii) VPO, through an internal government arrangement, delegates responsibility for day to day execution to the Tanzania Forest Service, reporting to the VPO. The wording has been clarified in the Portal and the Prodoc package to reflect this.

The reason for this arrangement is that this project attempts, for a first time, to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures (for which VPO-DoE carries the government mandate) explicitly into forest conservation and management (for which TFS carries the government mandate). Since VPO is responsible for all issues related to climate change and REDD+ related policies, regulation and activities, it has the convening power necessary to bring stakeholders together around issues related to climate change, and has the authority and capacity to provide technical leadership on these issues. For these reasons, the GoT has nominated the VPO-DoE to assume the role of Executing Agency. The TFS, in keeping with its mandate, has the authority and capacity to execute on-the-ground activities related to forest conservation and management, including working through its district offices to engage with communities through the participatory forest management programme and village land use planning processes. It is for this reason that VPO-DoE (which will retain overall responsibility and accountability for use of the project resources in accordance with the grant agreement, and delivery of project results) has delegated responsibility to TFS for day-to-day execution of site-based project activities.

On financial flows to VPO and the provision of execution support services:

We can confirm that the VPO-DoE, through the GEF Operational Focal Point, requested UNDP to provide execution support services (See Request letter, Annex 2 to the Prodoc)

to manage the identification and recruitment of international consultants, manage the procurement of international goods and services, and manage the direct payments of selected procurements managed by the government, in accordance with the LOA agreed between UNDP and the GoT (See Annex 5 to the Prodoc).

It was an oversight on our part ? for which we apologise ? not to reflect the relative flow of funds to VPO-DoE and UNDP in the budget, in accordance with these arrangements. This has been duly corrected in the TBWP in the Prodoc and Excel budget spreadsheet.
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
February 18, 2022

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
February 18, 2022

Yes. There is a KM approach with a GEF budget and cofinancing from UNDP.

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

February 18, 2022

Yes. done during the PPG.

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
February 18, 2022

Yes. See annex A, the result framework with targets and baseline.

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
February 18, 2022

Yes.

Agency Response
Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

May 6, 2022

The points are addressed. However, please check the annex A (Result Framework), the annex E (Budget), as well as the diagrams (ToC and project structure): the text is going beyond the right margins. Please, adjust the laying out.

February 18, 2022

Budget

- We take note that the cofinancing is mainly composed of parallel investments and not cash managed through the project (p4 Request for CEO endorsement). We understand that the situation provoked by the COVID-19 outbreak is tense and the current monetary stimulus is focused to support the Tanzanian economy. However, some questions on the budget also touch upon the role of cofinancing to justify the added value of GEF resources as add
- In the excel budget, the notes 10, 11, 12, and 13 are not assigned in the first table (TBWP). One of these notes deals with a sensible subject - vehicles: Please, clarify on which budget lines these notes refer to.
- In terms of vehicles (motorcycles, 4x4), please, 1) describe the current status of the fleet and 2) explain what the cofinancing brings.
- Some budget lines finance very basic needs under the outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3: uniforms and basic equipment (\$152,000), basic safety equipment (\$45,000), rations (US\$98,000), fuel (US\$22,000), reserve boundary marking (US\$9,000, US\$22,000), basic invasive plant control materials and equipment (US\$30,000). We can understand the need for basic needs for new NFRs, but 1) we wonder the role of cofinancing for basic needs and 2) what will happen when the project will have closed (sustainability issue). Please, justify and clarify.
- There are several budget lines for travels and daily allowance (output 1.1.1: \$32,000; output 1.1.3: \$32,000; Output 1.2.1: \$28,000 +\$18,000, for a total of \$110,000 under the component 1; Component 2: \$131,000; M&E: \$30,000), for a total of minimum \$271,000, as there are additional lines merged with other expenses notably under the component 1 (\$42,000) and the component 2 under the consultations (\$12,000). Please, 1) Confirm these amounts that seem relatively high (nearly 7% of the project budget), 2) Is the GEF the only financier to contribute to these travel costs? And 3) Confirm that the vehicles are provided by the executing partners and/or cofinancing.
- Some important budget lines are included in the budget under the output 2.1.2: civil engineering (\$525,000 and \$245,000, \$190,000). Please, 1) confirm the non-duplication of these budget lines as they include the same description and are under

the same output; 2) explain the role of baseline and cofinancing for these basic works, and 3) how the sustainability aspects are addressed for these operations?

Agency Response

Agency Response: 12 May 2022

Thank you for pointing this out. We have checked the Portal ? viewed from our side, all of the specified Annexes and diagrams fall comfortably within the margins when we view them in the Portal.

We have sent screenshots of what we can see in the Portal to the Gef Portal Helpdesk team (Wanderson Roldao) in an effort to understand what we can do to remedy the discrepancy between what we see and what is visible to the reviewer from the GEF side. On 10 May, Mr Roldao informed us that he had verified the project (along with another for Gabon, in which similar issues arose) in the Portal and does not detect any issues with formatting, and can see all tables and figures within the GEF Portal margin limits.

Od: Wanderson Batista Roldao <wbatistaroldao@worldbankgroup.org>

Odoslané: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 10:51 PM

Komu: Jana Pangracova <jana.pangracova@undp.org>; Jean-Marc Sinnassamy <jsinnassamy@thegef.org>

Predmet: RE: Gabon 10729 resubmission

Dear Jana,

Thank you for the follow up.

I have verified both projects in the GEF Portal and I am not being able to detect the issues with the formatting, as I can observe all text and tables inside the GEF Portal limits.

I am asking Jean-Marc if he can share more details about the issues he is observing.

Dear @Jean-Marc Sinnassamy,

Is it possible for you to share screenshots of the issues your are seeing. If it suits better, we can schedule a call to go over these and understand the nature of them.

Thank you and regards,
Wanderson

Should the problem persist, we would be most grateful to receive further guidance on how to resolve it.

Agency Response : 4 May 2022

The omission of BNs 10 through 13 in the TBWP in the GEF budget spreadsheet has been corrected ? our apologies for this error.

Vehicles: During the PPG, an assessment of the status of the currently available vehicle fleet for management of these NFRs was made, and future needs were also identified ? see Annex 21.1 Table 4 and Annex 21.2 Table 5). Currently, there are 8 motor vehicles and 8 motorbikes available for operational management of the nine project-targeted NFRs. These are located at Mount Hanang (3 vehicles, 4 motorbikes), Pindiro (1 vehicle and 1 motorbike) and Rondo (4 vehicles and 3 motorbikes). There are no dedicated vehicles available for the remaining five reserves. Whilst TFS attempts to meet its transport needs through using pooled resources shared with other forest reserves, the targeted NFRs are geographically widely separated, and some of them are very remote, which makes effective management through vehicle pooling impractical and inefficient.

The TFS has determined that to manage these reserves more effectively it needs to expand its vehicle fleet to include another 9 4 X 4 vehicles (ensuring at least 1 dedicated vehicle per reserve) and 18 motorbikes (used by field staff for conducting patrols and other operational activities).

GEF resources have been requested to purchase 8 motorbikes; these are to be assigned to Pugu-Kazimzumbwe, Rondo and Mwambesi Reserves, where the patrolling and other mobility needs are considered to be most urgent and immediate. UNDP TRAC cofinance will be used to purchase one 4 x 4 vehicle that will be equipped for fire-fighting (to be shared among reserves, or located at the reserve(s) facing the highest threats from fires) and all other vehicle requirements to bring the NFRs to a level of adequate operational efficiency will be met through other funding sources, including operational budgets allocated to each reserve.

Budget for basic equipment under outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 - uniforms and basic equipment (\$152,000), basic safety equipment (\$45,000), rations (US\$98,000), fuel (US\$22,000), reserve boundary marking (US\$9,000, US\$22,000): The project contribution to purchasing these basic items is intended to meet immediate, short-term deficits ? especially in the first couple of years of the project - that have been calculated for each reserve. The GoT makes annual allocations for the management of each reserve (and evidence gathered during PPG shows that these allocations have been steadily increasing over the last three years), but some 80% of these operational budgets are currently being directed to meet the staffing needs for each of the new NFRs as a priority (see Annexes 21.1 and 21.2 for further detail on current staffing complements and future needs). This means that what TFS will have immediately available for bringing all nine NFRs up to standard with regard to purchasing the specified equipment items will be limited, especially in the first couple of years of the project. The GEF investment under these outputs will be additional to the funding allocated to NFRs provided through: (a) the annual operational budget allocations by the TFS; (b) investments mobilized to support operational management in NFRs through the TaFF and EAMCEF; and (c) other funding and technical support for NFR operations committed by counterpart government institutions, donor agencies and NGOs. The Conservation Investment Plans developed for each reserve under Outcome 2 are intended to enable the TFS to tap into a larger pool of funds to provide for sustainability beyond project closure.

Budget for travel: (1) An itemized, output-level budget was developed to arrive at the global figures allocated under travel budget lines. The nine target NFRs are widely dispersed across Tanzania, and several occur in remote areas, which means that the PMU and other TFS staff involved in execution of project activities will need to travel long distances. The key outputs under Component 1 in particular are strongly participatory, which means that communities living over an even wider geographic area in NFR-adjacent villages must be reached to enable their full participation in the development of Forest Management Plans, Joint Management Agreements and Village Land Use Plans, and to enable their participation in operational activities such as fire management and invasive alien species management. One of the hard lessons learnt during the recently-closed GEF 5 Forest Nature Reserves project (GEF ID 5034) was that travel costs had been severely under-estimated, and this lesson has been factored into the budgeting for travel in the new project. We believe the figures represent an realistic estimate of the travel costs the project will incur to deliver the intended results, especially given rising fuel costs. (2) Travel costs are shared between the GEF grant and UNDP TRAC cofinance (Component 1, under the workshops budget line; Component 3, under the M&E and KM/SES/Gender sub-budgets; and PMCs). The costs of travel incurred by non-TFS Government stakeholders ? and others in civil society or the private sector (e.g. tourism operators) ? will be covered through cofinance or their own

budgets. (3) All vehicles required for travel will provided by the executing partners and/or through cofinancing.

Budget for infrastructure upgrades/development: (1) We can confirm that these 3 budget items under Output 2.1.2, BN 17 in the TBWP, are not duplications, but represent the specific budget that will be allocated to develop/upgrade the basic infrastructure and bulk services required to support the implementation of a sub-set of viable income-generating activities in each of 3 selected NFRs (See Prodoc paragraph 118 for details) ? the intended developments in each of the 3 selected reserves will be different, hence the three different amounts. (2) Baseline investments in basic reserve infrastructure are described in detail in Annex 21.1 and 21.2 to the Prodoc. While the targeted NFRs already maintain a basic system of infrastructure (e.g. road and footpath network) and bulk services (e.g. water supply, waste disposal, electricity supply) in each reserve, funded through CAPEX and OPEX allocations, this is currently not geared to tourism or recreational use and the existing infrastructure will become severely overloaded in the case of an increase in visitor numbers. The additionality of the GEF investment in infrastructure and bulk services in the targeted NFRs will, therefore, lie in upgrading the existing infrastructure and services to enable the NFRs to unleash their full economic potential. GEF investments will be supplemented by co-finance committed by the TaFF, and other cofinancing commitment to their staffing, operation and maintenance. (3) Sustainability will be addressed through the Conservation Investment Plans and through involvement of private sector partners through concessioning arrangements (in selected reserves), and other baseline investments (through projects such as REGROW).

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
February 18, 2022

Yes.

Agency Response

GEFSEC comment: June 27, 2022

ii. Add gender-related indicators in Outcome 2.2

UNDP response to PPO comment and Canada Council member comment - July 26, 2022 and October 4, 2022 respectively

i) Outcome 2.2: indicator 12 has been amended as below to address the comment.

<p>Outcome 2.2, Indicator 12:</p> <p>Total number of households in reserve-adjacent villages directly benefiting (by type of benefit) from the operationalisation of four income generating activities in NFRs with at least 50% of beneficiaries being women Headed</p>	<p>HH benefiting from Employment opportunities = 0</p> <p>HH benefiting from Income generating activities = 0</p> <p>HH benefiting from Training and skills development activities = 0</p>	<p>HH benefiting from Employment opportunities = >300</p> <p>HH benefiting from Income generating activities = > 8</p> <p>HH benefiting from Training and skills development activities = >70</p> <p>50% of beneficiaries being women Headed</p>	<p>HH benefiting from Employment opportunities = >380</p> <p>HH benefiting from Income generating activities = >12</p> <p>HH benefiting from Training and skills development activities = >90</p> <p>50% of beneficiaries being women Headed</p>
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UNDP RESPONSE 10 June 2022 to Quality Control comment:

a. Please request the agency to correct the target on the results framework under core indicator 1. The target in the core indicator table is 219,244 ha but in the results framework is 2194 ha.

We apologize for the typographic error in the previous submission. - The correct amount (219,244 ha) is now reflected under the Project results framework table of the CEO ER.

<p>CT OBJECTIVE: proved governance, ions and financial ement of NFRs enhances</p>	<p>Mandatory Indicator 2: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha and METT score) (GEF Core Indicator 1)</p>	<p>0 ha Mt Hanang = 41 Essimigor = 38 Hassama Hills = 36 Mwambesi = 37 Nou = 36 Pindiro = 43 Pugu-Kazimzumwi = 45 Rondo = 57 Uzigua = 46</p>	<p>185,452 ha Mt Hanang = 64 Essimigor = 64 Hassama Hills = 67 Mwambesi = 69 Nou = 64 Pindiro = 67 Pugu-Kazimzumwi = 69 Rondo = 72 Uzigua = 62</p>
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GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
February 18, 2022

Yes. Comments made at PIF level were addressed. Thanks.

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

October 21, 2022

Points from Canada received during the Council Consultation period are addressed.

May 6, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

Please provide responses to comments expressed by Denmark, Germany, and Canada.

Strategic comments are also made in the *GEF 59th council meeting Summary of the Chair (12/9/2020) about the audit report by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of UNDP GEF Management. The comment reminds that :*

- All projects implemented by UNDP in this Work Program shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

- Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and the management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to Council during the 4-week review period.

Agency Response

Additional Council comment from Canada (Emily Simmons) - October 5th, 2022 (sent to UNDP via email)

Council comment - October 5th , 2022

Basing the response provided, the second question under the Q+A is well addressed but can be further improved. The concern is on: "to what extent the various Tanzanian levels of government outside the NFRs will be involved in management and delivery of the project". In principle, the various levels of government outside the NFRs include the President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG) which is comprised of Regional, districts and Wards/ village Councils where the NFRs are located. **It is clearly stated in the response that PO-RALG is a core member of the PSC, meaning that the Regional, district and ward/village governments (i.e. village assembly and VNRCs) will be represented in planning, management and decision-making processes concerning implementation of the project.** This arrangement should therefore ensure that the needs, interests, concerns and or priorities of these government levels and peoples represented are identified and accommodated including capacity, costs and benefit sharing from this

project as guided by the Joint Forest Management regulations which have been described as the models to be adopted by this project.

UNDP's response - October 8, 2022

As appropriately pointed out, the President's Office-Regional Government Authorities is a core member of the PSC. The project will ensure that roles and responsibilities as well as interventions to address their capacity to meaningfully participate and contribute to project objectives are implemented.

Council comment - October 5th, 2022

The other important layers of the government outside NFR that are not mentioned in the response narrative provided (although may already have been provided in the main document) is the Division of Environment in the Vice President's Office (VPO) and its National Environment Management Council (NEMC). The VPO is the overall custodian of the environment in the country coordinating and overseeing implementation of the Environment Management Act (EMA 2004) and the Environmental Policy (2021) which underpins implementation of the NFRs project. The VPO is also the focal point for the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), CCD (Convention to Combat Desertification), NDC/UNFCCC and REDD+ Strategy on which this project will be contributing to.

UNDP's response - October 8, 2022

The Vice President Office (VPO), Division of Environment is the implementing/executing partner with responsibility for coordination of effective delivery of the project.

Paragraph 58: Under the theory of change, Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and the VPO have a specific role in sharing climate information and knowledge generated from the project with other PA agencies in Tanzania.

Paragraph 68: Under Incremental cost-reasoning and contributions from the baseline; capacity of VPO and TFS staff to mainstream climate change knowledge into forest planning and management and the development of forest carbon projects is highlighted as a key performance area.

Paragraphs 133-136: Output 3.1.1-specifically focuses on the project capacity building support to VPO and Environment Division leveraging on other initiatives such as REDD+.

Under paragraph 168, the VPO (DoE) is highlighted as a key stakeholder who represents government ownership of the project-will ensure the alignment and integration of the project activities with national environmental and climate change strategies and plans.

The VPO will have the responsibility for coordinating and overseeing project implementation.

Paragraph 196: Under the governance structure, the VPO is indicated as the Implementing Partner/Executing Agency responsible for executing the project and chair of the PSC. The VPO will delegate responsibility for day-to-day execution of project activities to the TFS Agency.

Council comment - October 5th, 2022

The NEMC on its part is the government institution under VPO, mandated to ensure enforcement and compliance with EMA 2004. Therefore, supports VPO coordination and reporting to the CBD. This means, VPO and NEMC if not already included in the governance structure, should then be considered.

UNDP's response - October 8, 2022

The VPO Environment Division as the implementing partner is responsible for ensuring compliance of the project to social and environmental safeguards in line with the UNDP policies and procedures and the national legislation, particularly EMA 2004. As reflected in the environment and social management framework (annex 10), the conduct of social and environmental assessments will be led by NEMC in line with the National Environmental Impact and Auditing Regulations (2005). In particular, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) leads screening of proposed project activities to determine whether a full EIA has to be conducted, a preliminary environmental assessment is necessary or if no environmental assessment is required. In this regard, the NEMC is a key stakeholder in implementation of all project activities to ensure compliance with the Environment Management Act 2004, Cap 191.

Council comment - October 5th, 2022

Thus, with these inclusions or considerations, if already included in the PRODOC, the governance arrangements including through inclusion of the various key government levels outside NFRs can be considered extensive enough for effective management and delivery of the project.

UNDP's response - October 8, 2022

Governance arrangements and implementation of project activities have included the various key government levels outside the NFRs including Presidents Office- Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities; and VPO Department of Environmental as well as the National Environment Management Council.

Council comment - October 1st, 2022 (within GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION section)

We received comments from Canada during the Council consultation period. Please, address the following comments:

UNDP's response - October 4, 2022

We would like to appreciate the feedback and guidance provided by the Council Member on this important issue which is at the heart of sustainable management of natural resources. Changes have been made to the CEO ER, Project document (strategy and Results framework) and the Gender Action (Annex 11) to reflect the revised targets for gender equality to at least 50%.

Council comment - October 1st, 2022

- The project states it will support GE by making sure that 40% of project participants will be women. Is the GEF able to increase this %? Environmental degradation in rural Sub-Saharan areas is affecting women disproportionately. GE should be more streamlined into the main document itself, not just left to an annex. For example, in Par. 56: there is not a single mention of women's role if fixing the problem.

UNDP's response - October 4, 2022

This project is designed to be "GEN2" in accordance with the UNDP Gender Marker, meaning that gender equality is fully mainstreamed within the output, monitoring and reporting, and budget. During the project design, deliberate effort was made to undertake detailed gender analysis and prepare an action plan that details interventions to enhance gender equality and women empowerment (Annex 11). The intention of the project is to achieve the maximum possible gender equality considering the existing baseline and national context. In this regard, 40% has been set as the absolute minimum target for gender equality in all activities supported by the project. We agree to change this to 50% and have made the change in the ProDoc. In addition, a dedicated section under paragraphs 172-176 provides a summary of gender analysis which was conducted during the PPG and details how the different outputs are expected to contribute to gender equality. We have further highlighted the importance of women and gender equality in the following paragraphs: 81, 86, 89, 98.

The theory of change under paragraph 56 is underpinned by a socially inclusive multistakeholder collaboration; evidence-driven decision-making and management approaches (based on integrated social, economic and ecological research); implementation of innovative, fit-for-purpose technologies and best-practices that enhance capacity for climate-proofing NFRs; and entrepreneurship and sustainable business models that enable communities to gain greater benefits from the management and development of NFRs through diversified value chains-reflected in paragraph 57. In this regard, the project intends to ensure that gender inclusive and mutually beneficial partnerships with NFR-adjacent communities are developed; the capacity of men and women to generate sustainable income streams from individual NFRs is further developed; and knowledge of men and women on the vulnerability and impact of climate change on NFRs is further developed-to improve management of forests,

enhance community livelihoods, reduce vulnerability, and increase resiliency to climate change.

Council comment - October 1st, 2022

- To what extent will project management and delivery involve various Tanzanian levels of government outside of the NFRs? Local governments are notoriously weak in Sub-Saharan Africa but, without their involvement, sustainability is unlikely. This is particularly problematic when dealing with transfers of technology, infrastructure, and land management. Local authorities that have not been integrated early on in the delivery of the goods will seek to recoup their losses later on in the process (and especially after the end of the project). So it is essential to bring them up as soon as possible and monitor rather than do all the work and then hand it all over to them at the end of the project.

UNDP's response - October 4, 2022

The project strategy is anchored on strengthening local governance especially village local governments in management of forests. Joint forest management is led by local governments and Community Forest Management Associations who are the key players and beneficiaries of the project. Within the context of national legal framework, village forest reserves are under the jurisdiction of local governments who lead management planning through the village natural resource committees. These ensure that priority interventions are integrated in the village and local government development plans. In addition, Local Governments are project co-financers demonstrating the level of their involvement, commitment, and integration of proposed interventions in their planning and financing.

Involvement of local government structures is well-covered in the Prodoc and much of Component 1 is about working through village governance and district structures- the whole system of Participatory Forest Management in Tanzania is entirely driven through local government structures. Specific sections of the project document that highlight the role of local governments include paragraphs: 100-105, 144, 198 and the stakeholder engagement plan (table 8 and 10). Under Sustainability section, paragraph 178 highlights the importance of strengthening the planning and operational management capacities in the project targeted NFRs and village governments. The President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Regional Authorities (Regional Administrative Secretariats, RAS) will be members of the Project Steering Committee representing all local governments and authorities-ensuring high-level oversight for ownership and integration. The village authorities such as Village Assembly (Village Council) and Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRC) will also be represented on the PSC as beneficiaries and collaborating partners.

Governance arrangements and implementation of project activities have included the various key government levels outside the NFRs including President's Office- Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities; and VPO Department of Environmental as well as the National Environment Management Council. The Vice

President Office (VPO), Division of Environment is the implementing/executing partner with responsibility for coordination of effective delivery of the project.

Paragraph 58: Under the theory of change, Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) and the VPO have a specific role in sharing climate information and knowledge generated from the project with other PA agencies in Tanzania.

Paragraph 68: Under Incremental cost-reasoning and contributions from the baseline; capacity of VPO and TFS staff to mainstream climate change knowledge into forest planning and management and the development of forest carbon projects is highlighted as a key performance area.

Paragraphs 133-136: Output 3.1.1-specifically focuses on the project capacity building support to VPO and Environment Division leveraging on other initiatives such as REDD+.

Under paragraph 168, the VPO (DoE) is highlighted as a key stakeholder who represents government ownership of the project-will ensure the alignment and integration of the project activities with national environmental and climate change strategies and plans. The VPO will have the responsibility for coordinating and overseeing project implementation.

Paragraph 196: Under the governance structure, the VPO is indicated as the Implementing Partner/Executing Agency responsible for executing the project and chair of the PSC. The VPO will delegate responsibility for day-to-day execution of project activities to the TFS Agency.

The VPO Environment Division as the implementing partner is responsible for ensuring compliance of the project to social and environmental safeguards in line with the UNDP policies and procedures and the national legislation, particularly EMA 2004. As reflected in the environment and social management framework (annex 10), the conduct of social and environmental assessments will be led by NEMC in line with the National Environmental Impact and Auditing Regulations (2005). In particular, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) leads screening of proposed project activities to determine whether a full EIA has to be conducted, a preliminary environmental assessment is necessary or if no environmental assessment is required. In this regard, the NEMC is a key stakeholder in implementation of all project activities to ensure compliance with the Environment Management Act 2004, Cap 191.

Agency Response : 4 May 2022

Response to Council comments: We apologize for unintentionally neglecting to provide responses to the Council comments from Canada, Germany and Denmark with the first submission ? we did not find any Council comments in the GEF Portal under the Stakeholder Comments section, or elsewhere, and only became aware of them upon receipt of this Review Sheet. Thank you for drawing them our attention.

All of the comments have now been addressed in an expanded comment-response matrix in Annex B to the CEO ER.

Strategic comments also made in the *GEF 59th council meeting Summary of the Chair* (12/9/2020):

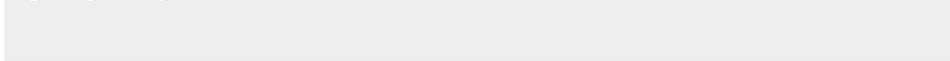
We note that: (i) this project will be circulated to the GEF Council for at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement; and (ii) the review will take into account the relevant findings of the external audit and management responses to them. In this regard, please note that we have submitted with the CEO endorsement request and Prodoc package the mandatory Audit Checklist, signed by the UNDP Tanzania Country Office, the Regional Bureau for Africa and the Bureau for Policy and Programme support (Nature, Climate and Energy Unit) in which specific issues highlighted in the UNDP Management Response to the audit have been elaborated.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
February 18, 2022

Yes

Agency Response



Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
May 6, 2022

Addressed (but other tables are now out of the margins, see comment above).

February 18, 2022

Yes in the request for CEO endorsement. However, the table is not readable in the portal. Please, correct.

Agency Response

Agency Response: 4 May 2022

Our apologies - this has been addressed in the Portal

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 18, 2022

Yes

The nine climate-vulnerable, low-capacity NFRs (and their forest-adjacent communities) include: seven existing NFRs - Mt. Hanang (5,871 ha) in the Manyara Region, Pindirolu (12,249 ha) and Rondo (11,742 ha) in the Lindi Region, Pugu?Kazimzumbwi (8,965 ha) in the Pwani Region, Uzigua (27,654 ha) in the Pwani and Tanga region, Mwambesi (112,901 ha) in the Ruvuma Region, and Essimangor (6,070 ha) in the Arusha Region; and two national Forest Reserves (FRs) that are currently in the process of being upgraded to NFRs - Nou (28,936 ha) in the Manyara Region and Hassama Hills (4,856 ha) in the Arusha Region.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
October 21, 2022

The comments from Canada were properly addressed (confirmed by email from Canada on October 21, 2022). The project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

October 1st, 2022

We received comments from Canada during the Council consultation period. Please, address the following comments:

- The project states it will support GE by making sure that 40% of project participants will be women. Is the GEF able to increase this %? Environmental degradation in rural Sub-Saharan areas is affecting women disproportionately. GE should be more streamlined into the main document itself, not just left to an annex. For example, in Par. 56: there is not a single mention of women's role if fixing the problem.

- To what extent will project management and delivery involve various Tanzanian levels of government outside of the NFRs? Local governments are notoriously weak in Sub-Saharan Africa but, without their involvement, sustainability is unlikely. This particularly problematic when dealing with transfers of technology, infrastructure, and land management. Local authorities that have not been integrated early on in the delivery of the goods will seek to ?recoup their losses? later on in the process (and especially after the end of the project). So it is essential to bring them up as soon as possible and monitor rather than do all the work and then hand it all over to them at the end of the project.

August 15, 2022

The remaining comments on gender are addressed. The project is recommended for CEO endorsement and Council consultation.

June 27, 2022

All the comments were addressed, but one:

Comment 5: The gender-related comment to "reflect gender equality considerations in project components 1 and 2 as already reflected in the Gender Action Plan" was not fully addressed. To assist the Agency, PPO suggests the following (in line with the Gender Action Plan):

- i. In Output 1.1.1, on FMPs: add: gender-responsive, or the phrase "promote gender equality";
- ii. Add gender-related indicators in Outcome 2.2

May 25, 2022

Please, address the points below from the Quality Control:

1. Co-financing (comments provided by Seo-Jeong):

- Tanzania Forest Fund:
 - o change "Other" to "Recipient country government"
 - o change "Grant" to "Public investment"

Other	Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF)	Grant	Investment mobilized	4,000,000.00	
Other	Tanzania Forest Fund (TaFF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00	

2. Core Indicators (comments provided by Omid):

- a. Please request the agency to include METT scores under core indicator 1.2 in the core indicator table
- b. Please request the agency to correct the target on the results framework under core indicator 1. The target in the core indicator table is 219,244 ha but in the results framework is 2194 ha.
- c. The target for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated under core indicator 6 is not consistent with the reported target under the results framework target.

3. Status of utilization of PPG: as requested, please provide more details about expenditure categories of the PPG spending report - As an example we are sharing the utilization of PPG table for another project.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent to Date	Amount Committed
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	150,000	126,084.94	23,915.06
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes			
Component C: Validation Workshop and Report Delivery of final outputs			
TOTAL	150,000	126,084.94	23,915.06

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

*As of 6 May 2022

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: US\$ 182,650

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)			
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Committed	Amount Spent To Date*	Amount Unspent/undisbursed
Sub total Consulting services rendered: Technical expertise **	162,091	162,091	157,448	4,643
Project Manager	52,111	52,111	50,914	
Solid Waste Management Specialist (international and local)	49,928	49,928	46,608	
Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Specialist	31,952	31,952	31,826	
Finance & Strategy Development Specialist	28,100	28,100	28,100	
Sub Total Consulting services rendered: Stakeholder engagement ***	20,559	20,559	20,428	131
Solid Waste Management Specialist (local)	10,000	10,000	9,913	
Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Specialist	8,000	8,000	7,956	
Workshop/Meeting with local government	2,559	2,559	2,559	
Grand Total	182,650	182,650	177,876	4,774

As of May 6, 2022

4. Gender (comment provided by Verona): To ensure effective gender mainstreaming, please reflect gender equality considerations in project components 1 and 2 as already reflected in the Gender Action Plan.

May 13, 2022

I am still seeing the same issues. It might be an IT issue. To not jeopardize the endorsement of this project (threatened by project cancellation), I recommend it for clearance and Council consultation and ask to the IT team to look at it.

May 6, 2022

All points are addressed. However, some annexes and diagrams are getting out of the margins. Upon reception of a revised package, the project will be recommended for technical clearance and Council consultation

February 18, 2022

The project cannot be recommended yet for the 4-week Council consultation and CEO endorsement. Please, address the comments above.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	2/18/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/6/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/25/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/27/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/21/2022	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations