



Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11395

Countries

Viet Nam

Project Name

Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach

Agencies

WWF-US

Date received by PM

10/19/2023

Review completed by PM

11/17/2023

Program Manager

Hannah Fairbank

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

2. Project Summary

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?

Secretariat's Comments HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 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?

Secretariat's Comments HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

Please integrate gender equality considerations in the following Outputs: 2.1.1, 2.1.4, 2.2.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.3, 3.1.4; all outputs under Components 1 and 4. Please include monitoring of Gender Action Plan under M&E.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

All the flagged outputs in the indicative project overview table now have gender equality considerations integrated within them (revisions in blue font). This has also carried over into the narrative description of the outputs in the paragraphs following the Theory of Change.

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

11/17/23:

b.) Cleared.

11/6/23:

3.3. a.) Yes

b.) No, please ensure they are proportional. (i) the GEF portion is 5.2%, which is above the cap ? please reduce the request to 5%; (ii) if the GEF contribution is kept at 5%, for a

co-financing of \$70,800,000 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$3,540,000 instead of \$2,200,000 (which is 3.1%). As the costs associated with the project management must be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion. A more definitive estimation of PMC must be presented and adjusted at CEO Endorsement stage.

c.) Yes

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

b) This has been corrected in the Table B (in blue font).

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

a.) Yes.

b.) Yes, but please fix barrier 1 format which is not readable in the Portal version of the PIF.

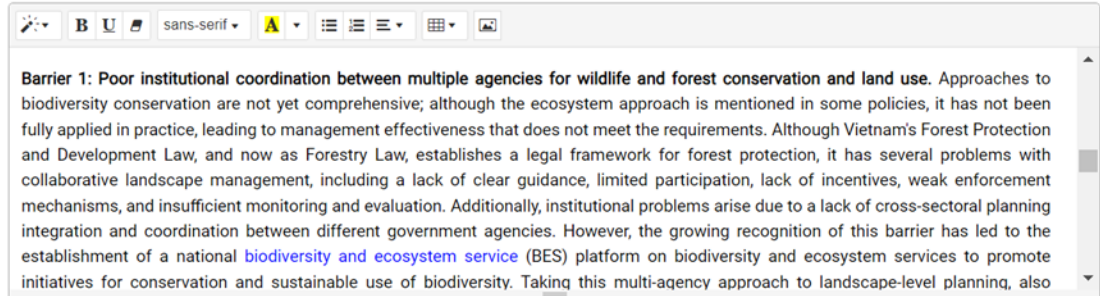
Agency's Comments

11/16/23

b) It has been updated in the portal.

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here



4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

- a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?
- b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?
- c) 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?
- d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

a.) Please include a description of the target landscape and how it was identified (what is the heuristic for identifying the landscape)? By looking at the maps it is unclear that CV is actually a landscape given the size and number of provinces included, the seeming fragmentation of forest cover, large land area and population intensity.

In addition to a description of the landscape, please describe the entry points of engagement/how, given the size and complexity of this geographic region, will this project be implemented/executed at such a massive scale? for example, are there sub-landscape sites for engagement in component 2-3 etc? Wondering how the project intends to span and engage between the national level to the ultra-local.

b) Yes.

c.) There is a long list of ongoing/recent investments in central Viet Nam, in addition, please include a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing. In addition, past WWF investments in central Viet Nam should be included given the relatively long history in the region, and please provide description of those this project builds on these.

d.) Please elaborate in Annex J the roles of relevant stakeholders to project outcomes.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

a) The Central Vietnam Landscape (CVL) is a trans-boundary landscape that houses one of the largest continuous natural forest areas in continental Asia, renowned for its unique biodiversity and a natural carbon sink. The CVL transects Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces, and the centrally-administered municipality of Da Nang. This geographic scope are prioritized provinces in the National Program on Conservation of Endangered and Rare Wildlife species prioritized for protection until 2030, with a vision to 2050 which was developed by MONRE and submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. Reference is made to the additional text in the project rationale justifying the selection of the Central Vietnam Landscape. To summarize, Central Vietnam holds significant ecological and global environmental importance, making it an ideal candidate for a landscape management project whose scope is to consolidate different models for Vietnam and the region:

Biodiversity Hotspots: Central Vietnam is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot, one of the world's most significant regions for biodiversity. This area is rich in a variety of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic, including the saola (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), large antlered muntjac (*Muntiacus vuquangensis*), Truong Son muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsonensis*), Owston's civet (*Chrotogale owstoni*), crested argus (*Rheinardia ocellata*), and Annamite striped rabbit (*Nesolagus timminsi*); as well as other species of high conservation value: gibbons (*Nomascus annamensis*), red and grey shanked douc langurs (*Pygathrix* spp), and several pheasants (*Lophura* spp).

Variety of Ecosystems: The region encompasses a range of ecosystems, from coastal and marine environments to lowland and montane forests. Each of these ecosystems supports different species and ecological processes, and their management and conservation are crucial for maintaining the region's ecological balance.

Endangered Species Habitat: The Central Vietnam Landscape is home to numerous endangered and threatened species, such as the Saola and several primate species. Landscape management can help in creating and maintaining corridors for wildlife movement, reducing the risk of species extinction.

Climate Regulation: The forests in Central Vietnam play a critical role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Effective landscape management can contribute to climate change mitigation efforts.

Watershed Protection: The region's mountains and forests are vital for watershed protection. They regulate water flow, reduce soil erosion, and maintain water quality, benefiting both natural ecosystems and human populations.

Cultural Significance: Many ethnic communities in Central Vietnam depend on the natural environment for their livelihoods and cultural practices. Vietnam's economy is more dependent on natural resource use than it is the case for most countries in Southeast Asia, with more than half the population engaging in agriculture or other land uses for their livelihood.

Eco-Tourism Potential: The region's scenic beauty and rich biodiversity offer significant potential for eco-tourism, which can be sustainably developed through effective landscape management.

Alignment to National Priorities: The Central Vietnam Landscape is aligned to MONRE's biodiversity planning and priority setting in its recent NBSAP, proposed National Program on Conservation of Endanger and Rare Wildlife species prioritized for protection until 2030, with a vision to 2050, and consistent with WWF's cross-practice priorities in its 2021-2025 strategic plan.

c) Reference is made to the WWF ongoing/recent investments in the Section entitled "Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project". Further WWF investments in central Vietnam are listed in Table 7 of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, annexed as a separate document and referenced in Annex J of the PIF. Please also see additional text included in the narrative (following description of the outcomes and outputs), on how these partner initiatives (GEF, WWF and others) are intended to link to the proposed project. At its core, the proposed GEF-8 project will dovetail on the foundation of other initiatives, to explore what practices can contribute to an accepted replicable model for landscape conservation and also create a platform for resourcing at a landscape level. Indeed there are opportunities for co-location, cost-efficiencies, sharing of expertise and staffing, and these will be explored further and formalized during the PPG phase.

d) Reference is made to Table 3 within Annex J, outlining the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the implementation of the GEF-8 project (see screenshot). This table and the corresponding roles and responsibilities will be revisited and revalidated and updated during the PPG phase.

Table 3: Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders for implementation of the project

Stakeholder	Mandate/responsibility	Role in the project and involvement mechanism
1 National Government		
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and its constituent authorities	The wide-ranging state management functions of MONRE include the management of air, land and water resources under the amended Law of Environmental Protection (2020), as well as biodiversity under Viet Nam's Law of Biodiversity (2008). MONRE's mandate also includes coordination with ministries, ministerial committees and government agencies in providing guidance for implementation of resource use, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation in the sector areas managed by these ministries and agencies. Under Decree No. 65, MONRE has been given responsibility for working with PPCs to establish national-level PAs in wetlands, limestone mountains, and mixed ecosystems that occupy at least two provinces and that are not already within a Special Use Forests (SUFs) or in the sea, and to manage such PAs. Under MONRE, the Natural and Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA) ² has the mandate for state management of biodiversity, in accordance with biodiversity conservation provisions of the Biodiversity Law in cooperation with other ministries. Institutionally BCA is the agency authorized for the preparation of NBSAP, biodiversity master planning, and national reporting on biodiversity. MONRE is, among others, the national focal point for various multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UNFCCC, the Ramsar Convention, and the UNCCD.	MONRE is the designated National Executing Agency (BCA) for the project. MONRE will assume all duties assigned to the BCA, will chair the Project Steering Committee, and assume a leading role in engaging national and local level stakeholders in implementing project activities. MONRE will lead Annual Review meetings on project planning and reporting, and will appraise and approve all project related documents, including Annual Work Plans and Quarterly Work Plans. BCA will assume the responsibility for overall project implementation as Project Owner under delegated responsibility by MONRE. BCA is also responsible for coordinating relevant stakeholders within BCA in support of the overall implementation of the project. BCA has past experience of managing UN Projects, including GEF funded projects. BCA will participate in Annual Review meetings, planning and reporting. BCA will be responsible for day-to-day coordination and management of project activities at the national level and coordination of project activities at the provincial level, financial management and reporting.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)	MARD has the responsibility for exercising the State management over forest protection and development as well as fisheries management nationwide, through its Forest Protection Department (FPD), special used forest and protection forest department, and Department for Capture Fisheries and Resource Protection (DCFRP). Prior to the 2008 Biodiversity Law, MARD has been responsible for developing the national PA system within forests (Special Use Forests – SUFs), marine and inland water ecosystems (Marine Protected Areas and Inland	MARD will collaborate and support in project activities to identify gaps, priority issues and solutions for sustainable forest management, ecotourism, and biodiversity conservation of NPs, NIs including strengthening protected area (PA) management, identification of HCV set-aside forest in buffer zones and marine conservation areas, forest restoration in national parks, NRs, etc.

² Decision No. 3025/QĐ-BTNMT dated 7/11/2022 on regulations on the functions, tasks, rights and organizational structure of the Department of Nature Conservation and Biodiversity

Stakeholder	Mandate/responsibility	Role
	Water Conservation Areas, respectively). Additionally, MARD is responsible for enforcing wildlife protection regulations, as such playing an important role in preventing overexploitation of a range of species. MARD is also the focal point of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). MARD continues to be responsible for national-level PAs that are within terrestrial SUFs and for marine PAs lying within at least 2 provinces. MARD provides technical instructions to the MPA of Muí Chua National Park.	
Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)	MPI performs State management functions in the field of planning and investment, including the provision of general advices on strategies and plans on national socio-economic development, on mechanism and policies for general economic management and some specific fields, on domestic and foreign investment, etc.	MPI's project build on local resources, provincial strategies
2) Provincial and Local Government		
Provincial People's Committees (PPCs) in pilot National park	PPCs are headed by a Chairman and supported by Vice Chairmen for each major sector including a Vice Chairman for Natural Resources & Environment. Under Viet Nam's decentralization policies, PPCs play a major role in provincial development and sector planning and implementation, including on environmental management and biodiversity conservation. PPCs also have an important role in ensuring that biodiversity is integrated into sectoral plans and programs at the local level. Specifically they are responsible for coordinating the biodiversity conservation activities of various line departments at the provincial (and city) level. PPCs currently have management responsibility for those PAs – SUFs, Integrated Water Management and MPAs - that lie entirely within their provincial territory.	The PAs sub-level implement inform financial coordinat monitor resp work the over meet autho stake
Provincial specialized departments	At the provincial level, national line ministries usually have specialized departments that mirror their parent ministries in administrative structure and function. These departments receive technical instructions from their national line ministries, but are accountable to the PPCs. Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) is the provincial representative of MONRE and the thus responsible for managing natural resources and environment at the provincial level.	DONRE govern at the partn DOCS DONRE partic such integ rousu proje

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

a.) Cleared.

b.) Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

a.) Very strong TOC, please write a concise (couple of sentences/short para) overview of the TOC.

b.) Yes, though could an Outcome/desired end state regarding financial sustainability/resource mobilization be expected? This is a critical element of the project and has significant implications for the long term impact of this investment and future of the landscape(s) and builds on past investments in region/landscape.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

- a) A summary has been made to the additional preamble text to the Theory of Change.
- b) Financial sustainability is captured implicitly through Outcome 1 via strengthened legal, policy and financial framework enabling the establishment of a replicable landscape conservation model in Central Vietnam. Both the results hierarchy and theory of change (including impact pathways) have been validated with government partners and endorsed by the National GEF Steering Committee as a precursor for obtaining the letter of endorsement. That said, both will be revisited and revalidated again during the PPG and the project will keep this observation in a parking lot for future actioning.

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

- a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?**
- b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).**
- c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area**
- d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

a.) Please address the institutional setting for this project including potential executing partners and arrangement and rationale.

b-d) Yes.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

a) Per discussions during the PIF and further conversations that will formalize implementation arrangements during the PIF, the Project will be implemented by the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency* (NBCA) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) (*Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate) This is consistent with the Letter of Endorsement from the GEF Operational Focal Point. As noted above indicative roles and responsibilities have been documented in Table 3 of the Stakeholder Assessment in Annex J.

5.4 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 indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/28/23:

Cleared. Please note comments to be addressed during PPG period.

It is our understanding based on provided feedback that :

At PIF stage, the choice of hectare segmentation was done on a theoretical basis based on country authorities knowledge of CVL landscapes, estimating what sub-parcels would look like in 15% of this landscape that would be covered by the project, with further identification of landscapes to be conducted during PPG with government authorities.

The project design will prioritize those that maximize CCM benefits as the exact practices will be identified and defined during PPG to achieve the results targeted. Thank you for the clarification, as it confirms comments made in this review sheet will be taken into account during project preparation to maximize impact.

The examples given for the restoration component in the review sheet (for the 5,208 hectares) are adequate and can be an inspiration for justification to provide on other

segments of identified landscapes. Whereas the Agency response included SMART patrols as an example of an activity to reduce degradation in forests, however this does not clarify how biomass levels will be increased, which ultimately is the subject of carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation benefits. The agency further argues that practices that will lead to climate change mitigation outcomes will be assessed on the basis of a climate vulnerability assessment. The agency should note that climate vulnerability assessments, while very useful, focus on climate impacts, while climate change mitigation outcomes should be assessed on the basis of the assessment of the drivers of degradation of identified landscapes (which can include, but not limited to, climate impacts, among many other drivers), and of how project interventions can reduce further loss of biomass (therefore carbon) and in some cases increase sequestration.

In order for estimates to align with guidelines the input data must clarify the correspondence between threat/barriers and outputs/outcomes through project interventions. The reviewer notes that the threats include fragmentation of forests and islands of biodiversity, illegal logging and encroachment, conversion of forest landscapes for plantations and other livelihood activities, encroachment from infrastructure, industrial and economic development activities, illegal poaching and unsustainable hunting; that the barriers include poor institutional coordination between multiple agencies for wildlife and forest conservation and land use, complicated and incomplete policy and legal framework to holistically address landscape needs collaboratively with state and non-state entities in an integrated manner, in tandem with protected area and biodiversity conservation, poor framework for engaging key stakeholders, funding and incentivizing investment and ownership in protected areas (PAs) and landscapes, limited awareness, data and capacity among government and private sector entities to ensure the successful implementation and proliferation of whole-landscape models to conservation; and that the description of components focus on landscape level planning, financing and community level implementation interventions which broadly fit these threats and barriers, in particular, for what regards CCM benefits, those that relate to conversion of forest landscapes by working on alternative livelihood activities, and those that relate to lack of coordination and integrated framework and data availability at landscape level. During PPG the Agency is expected to deepen and clarify how the proposed outcome targets will be reached.

HF 11/17/23:

a.) The EXACT contains several errors to be fixed: a.) The post-direct impact are categorized as indirect instead of direct; b.) The capitalization phase should be 15 years instead of 20; and c.) The forest degradation levels are overexaggerated and need to be corrected.

b.) Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

a.i) High mitigation impact expected per targets, however justification of these targets that uses a methodology in line with GEF guidelines is required. Please resubmit with a completed EXACT file.

b.) Unclear, please address issue regarding landscape definition and globally significant biodiversity GEB identification/articulation and then resubmit core indicator targets for hectarage.

Agency's Comments

11/22/23

a) Per screenshot (see highlight), the post-project impact has been changed from ?indirect? to ?direct?.

Core Indicator 6: The GHG emissions reductions resulting from the project were estimated using the Ex-Act version and a period of 20 years (5 years project and 15 years capitalization phase). Reference is made to the file below articulating -6,273,458 tonnes of CO2 equivalent mitigated/sequestered, calculated using the FAO EXACT tool. This includes -896,208 direct over the course of the project and -5,377,250 direct (post project), with the total being -6,273,458 over a 20-year accrual period.

b) Per the screenshot below, the capitalization period has been changed to 15 years instead of 20. The total duration of accounting has been lowered from 25 years to 20 years (5 years implementation phase + 15 years capitalization).

The screenshot displays the '1.2 Project site and duration' section of the EXACT tool. It includes a table with project details and two buttons labeled 'Climate?' and 'Soil?'. The 'Project duration (in years)' section shows an 'Implementation Phase' of 5 years and a 'Capitalization Phase' of 15 years, resulting in a 'Total Duration of Accounting' of 20 years. The 15 and 20 values are highlighted in yellow.

1.2 Project site and duration		
Continent	South-eastern Asia	
Country	Viet Nam	
Climate	Tropical	
Moisture	Wet	
Soil Type	Wetland soils	
Project duration (in years)	Implementation Phase	5
	Capitalization Phase	15
Total Duration of Accounting		20

Climate?
Soil?

c) Per screenshots below, the forest degradation levels have been changed. This has brought GHG emissions reductions down from -7,974,725 to -6,273,458 tonnes of CO2 equivalent mitigated/sequestered.

Tropical moist deciduous forest	Very low	Low	None	YES	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	51,808
Tropical moist deciduous forest	Large	Large	Moderate	NO	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	57,997
Tropical moist deciduous forest	Moderate	Large	Low	NO	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	15,519
Tropical moist deciduous forest	Extreme	Extreme	Moderate	NO	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	5,208

Further feedback below indicated in bold from GEF Sec Reviewer RR on 11/20/23 and 11/21/23. Please note that the XL dated 21 November is the final ExAct for this resubmission.

(RR 11/20/23) The EXACT sheet contains currently several inconsistencies with regards to GEF guidelines, which lead to an overestimation of expected impact at this stage per provided elements :

- 1. (RR) Time period : the project implementation phase is 5 years, which is consistent, however the capitalization is noted as 20 years. This should be 15 years for a total of 20 years.**

Response to 1:

Per the screenshot below, the capitalization period has been changed to 15 years instead of 20. The total duration of accounting has been lowered from 25 years to 20 years (5 years implementation phase + 15 years capitalization).

1.2 Project site and duration

Continent	South-eastern Asia		Climate? Soil?
Country	Viet Nam		
Climate	Tropical		
Moisture	Wet		
Soil Type	Wetland soils		
Project duration (in years)	Implementation Phase	5	
	Capitalization Phase	15	
Total Duration of Accounting	20		

2. (RR) Direct/indirect categorization : The post-project period (15 years capitalization phase in Exact) should be categorized as direct (it is technically a post-project direct impact), instead of indirect.

Response to 2:

Per screenshot (see highlight), the post-project impact has been changed from ?indirect? to ?direct?.

Core Indicator 6: The GHG emissions reductions resulting from the project were estimated using the Ex-Act version and a period of 20 years (5 years project and 15 years capitalization phase). Reference is made to the figure below articulating -6,273,458 tonnes of CO2 equivalent mitigated/sequestered, calculated using the FAO EXACT tool. This includes -896,208 direct over the course of the project and -5,377,250 direct (post project), with the total being 6,273,458 over a 20-year accrual period.

3. (RR) Hectarage : While the total number of hectares matches with the total hectarage used for core indicator 4, there is no indication of what practices this corresponds to and the numbers provided in the exact sheet do not match those provided in the description of components. In project components, the only items which could be related to forest management activities are the following:

a. *3.1.3 Site selection and restoration of degraded forests, mangroves and important wetlands leveraging nature-based solutions, increasing carbon sequestration, realizing carbon benefits, and improving connectivity to benefit long-term population viability of keystone, and threatened species,* for which a ?subset of the 22,000 ha lagoon system located along 68 km coastal area of Thua Thien Hue province? is mentioned. The core indicator 4 justification further refers to ?4,400 hectares in total slated for restoration under Component 3?. However no mention is made of these 4,400 hectares in the EXACT sheet where the numbers are different.

b. *3.1.4 Best practice approaches to forest, mangrove and wetland restoration and reforestation / sustainable harvesting documented, and capacities enhanced through training and locally-relevant guidelines* is mentioned, and further detailed as comprising ?best practice silvicultural approaches?, ?to reduce fragmentation in land preparation, soil analysis, selection of appropriate indigenous species, planting and management (including avoiding damage) to build resilience and support biodiversity, enhancing connectivity via forest restoration, management of pests, diseases and fire control, and effective management of age structures and tree densities.?

c. However to ExAct sheet refers to 51808 ha, 57997 ha, 15519 ha and 5208 ha, which do not match any information provided in the PIF or elsewhere in provided materials.

Response to 3a:

In an effort not to overestimate the GHG emission reductions, the 4,400 hectares noted in Core Indicator 3 and in Output 3.1.3, was omitted from the ExAct sheet calculations for the following reasons:

- The executing partners have yet to determine which section of the 68 km coastal area ought to be slated for restoration and therefore, it is unclear what the initial land use and agroforestry system is, and what the final land-use will be.
- During PPG phase there will be more direct consultations with partners on the ground, and a detailed landscape report will be produced to underpin such decisions.

Based on the above, the 4,400 ha will be included in the ExAct sheet during the PPG stage once due diligence and fulsome consultations have taken place. This was already indicated on page 21 of the PIF per the below screenshot:

ecosystems in the face of these impacts. Areas selected for restoration based on their carbon sequestration potential and long-term benefits (Output 3.1.3) will be assessed during the PPG, but, will likely be a sub 22,000 ha lagoon system located along 68 km coastal area of Thua Thien Hue province. This Output will

Response to 3b and c:

Neither descriptions of Output 3.1.4 in the Indicative Project Overview table, or on page 21 of the narrative specify any explicit figure of the target hectares. Instead, reference is made to the assumption underpinning the value selected for Core Indicator 4, which was defined following lengthy consultations with BCA and WWF Vietnam Country Office on what would be a realistic and conservative target at this juncture without yet having conducted thorough national consultations in the field. To address this comment we have included reference on page 21 to the assumptions for Core Indicator 4. The figures noted in the ExAct sheet 51,808 ha, 57,997 ha, 15,519 ha and 5,208 ha (corresponding to rich, medium, poor and very poor protection forest respectively), do add up to 130,532 ha noted for Core Indicator 4 on page 25. Again, these have been defined and agreed to by the project partners during PIF consultations. They will be revisited again during the PPG. Reference is also made to the narrative accompanying the Theory of Change (see the screenshot below), highlighting the total 130,532 ha (51,808 + 57,997 15,519 ha and 5,208) that will be under improved (to be determined during the PPG) practices and a combination of improved community forest management.

biodiversity outcomes;

- **O2: Increased management effectiveness across 731,446 ha under improved management for conservation and 130,532 ha of landscape outside of PAs under improved practices, as well as community forest management (OECMs, SUFs and PFs);**

4. (RR) Forest degradation levels : the gaps computed in the EXACT sheet appear overly ambitious for the project size and duration and for the types of activities

mentioned above, and are not supported by evidence. Per guidelines we encourage conservative assumptions, which is not the case for 3 out of the following lines:

- i. 51808 hectares deemed to go from a very low to moderate level of degradation without the project, remaining very low with the project.
- ii. 57,997 hectares deemed to stay at a large level of degradation without the project, reaching moderate with the project.
- iii. 15,519 hectares deemed to go from a moderate to large level of degradation without the project, reaching very low with the project.
- iv. 5,208 hectares deemed to stay at an extreme level of degradation without the project, reaching very low with the project.

Response to 4i:

Have changed to 'low' without the project and changed to 'None' with the project because the intent is to halt degradation through best management practices (see screenshot below):

Tropical moist deciduous forest	Very low	Low	None	YES	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	51,808
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Response to 4ii:

Have not changed the logic here. The intent is to reverse somewhat some of the badly degraded sections of the landscape, recognizing that it can at most go to one step below 'large' within the 4 year project life-cycle.

Response to 4iii:

Per the screenshot below, have changed the value with the project from 'very low' to 'low'. No change to the value without the project which still stats at 'Large' given the pressures to cut down forest in Vietnam:

Tropical moist deciduous forest	Moderate	Large	Low	NO	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	15,519
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Response to 4iv:

Per the screenshot below, have changed the value with the project from 'very low' to 'Moderate'. No change to the value without the project which still starts at 'Extreme'. The 5,208 ha was identified as severely degraded and efforts will be made to double down on reversing this over the course of the project.

Tropical moist deciduous forest	Extreme	Extreme	Moderate	NO	NO	1	1	1.0%	1.0%	5,208
---------------------------------	---------	---------	----------	----	----	---	---	------	------	-------

5. Unless adequate justification is provided on the current and projected levels of degradation of these hectarage and on what kind of practices would be expected to be put in place in targeted landscapes to reduce and/or reverse degradation, it would be suggested to reduce the gaps to a one step change, such as what is described for line number ii. Above for example where the area is expected to go from large to moderate. Reaching very low levels of degradation from an extreme level seems very unlikely based provided information. Furthermore, referring to the hectarage point above, direct restoration performed on such large areas seems high given resources allocated to the project.

(RR 11/21/23)

The information provided in the EXACT spreadsheet and justification helps but further work is needed prior to PIF clearance:

There is no information about what these hectarage correspond to, solely a reference to the fact that a process of consultation was held. But what this corresponds to in terms of practices that will be implemented and in terms of addressing specific drivers of degradation in specific identified landscapes is not clarified. This is important to clarify as improved practices from a land degradation perspective and from a climate change mitigation perspective are not always equivalent. The use of the EXACT tool for characterizing degradation levels remains inadequate in some instances, which calls for further questions given absence of clear sources and boundaries in provided justification :

Response:

Reference is made to the narrative describing Core Indicator 4 that the hectarage corresponds to rich protection forest (51,808 ha), medium / moderately intact protection forest (15,519 ha), poor / sparsely intact protection forest (57,997 ha) and very poor / severely degraded protection forest (5,208 ha). Please see the screenshot below with the new additional clarifications in green font.

Core Indicator 4: Based on consultations with executing partners during the formulation of the PIF, it is estimated that a total of 130,532 ha will be under improved practices within the Central Vietnam Landscape Outcomes (CVL) PAs. This amount is calculated on the basis that the project will target 15% of the total 870,217 ha rich / **intact protection forest (51,808 ha)**, medium / **moderately intact protection forest (15,519 ha)**, poor / **sparsely intact protection forest (57,997 ha)** and very poor / **severely degraded protection forest (5,208 ha)** protection forest within the CVL. **These figures and the specific areas where improved management practices will take place (along with corresponding methods for each), will be revisited during the PPG phase once due diligence and more consultations have occurred, as well as once a detailed landscape report is developed and validated.**

Responding to the comment that there is not corresponding practice that will be implemented in terms of addressing the specific drivers of degradation, reference is made to the following text in the narrative for Output(s) 3.1.1 and 3.1.3:

Climate vulnerability assessments (Output 3.1.1) aim to identify areas that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and to develop strategies for restoring, managing and protecting these ecosystems in the face of these impacts, recognizing that improved practices from a land degradation perspective and from a climate change mitigation perspective are not always equivalent and therefore, selection will be prioritized on the basis of those identified practices that yield the greatest climate change mitigation potential. Areas selected for restoration based on their carbon sequestration potential and long-term benefits (Output 3.1.3) will be assessed during the PPG.

Given, the project is in the ideation / business case phase, additional consultation and detailed due diligence is required by national consultants in the field during the PPG phase to identify specific sites based on detailed selection criteria to be established during the PPG inception phase and subsequently to articulate the practices that will be implemented and in terms of addressing specific drivers of degradation in specific identified landscapes. This cannot be determined at this juncture. While you are correct that it is important to clarify as improved practices from a land degradation perspective and from a climate change mitigation perspective are not always equivalent, the Implementing Partners have noted in the introductory paragraph of the PIF that the geographic scope in the prioritized provinces (and commitments therein) was developed by MONRE and submitted to the Prime Minister for approval.

i. 51808 hectares deemed to go from a very low to moderate level of degradation without the project, remaining very low with the project

o Response - Have changed to ?low? without the project and changed to ?None? with the project because the intent is to halt degradation through best management practices (see screenshot below):

? Follow-up question : In practice, halting degradation means staying on the current level of degradation. So instead of being none, the level should remain very low with the project.

Response to follow up question:

As noted in the introductory project rationale and justification for the project, the Central Vietnam Landscape and goal of preserving the contiguity / connectivity of protection forest is one of the main pillars enshrined in the Vietnamese *National Program on Conservation of Endangered and Rare Wildlife species prioritized for protection until 2030, with a vision to 2050?*, as well as the recent update to the NBSAP. So much so, that these priorities were submitted to the Prime Minister for approval. Therefore, the project has commitment at the highest political level and halting degradation means ensuring there is no degradation whatsoever from the status at the start which is *Very low?* and eliminating what pressures may exist. The project intends to invest heavily in SMART patrols and therefore the assumption is that for the 51,808 ha where there is very low forest degradation level at the outset of the project is to completely eliminate whatever degradation pressures which may exist. As such, it is expected that there would be no degradation whatsoever in this area. There is no change warranted to the ExAct sheet in this regard, and we will keep the status with the project toggled as *None?* because of the intent to eliminate all degradation pressures during the life of the project for those 51,808 hectares.

ii. 57,997 hectares deemed to stay at a large level of degradation without the project, reaching moderate with the project

o Response - Have not changed the logic here. The intent is to reverse somewhat some of the badly degraded sections of the landscape, recognizing that it can at most go to one step below *large?* within the 4 year project life-cycle.

? Follow-up question : All clear, but has this landscape been identified (or is this a theoretical segmentation of the 10% of CVL mentioned in core indicator 4?), and what activities would be implemented to restore this degraded sections of the landscape?

Response to follow up question:

The total target for Core Indicator 4 is actually 130,352 hectares, representing 15% of the CVL, not 10%. This 15% (130,352 ha) has been segmented further by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment together with WWF Vietnam into sub-parcels of the landscape ranging from highly intact protection forest to very poor / highly degraded protection forest. See response above regarding this. Again, it is not possible to determine what activities will be implemented in each to restore the degraded sections of the

landscape. These will be determined during the PPG as part of further elaboration and due diligence of Output(s) 3.1.1 and 3.1.3, and once there is a national consultant team to undertake field studies, produce landscape reports and identify strategies prioritizing climate change mitigation potential.

iii. 15,519 hectares deemed to go from a moderate to large level of degradation without the project, reaching very low with the project

o Response - 15,519 hectares deemed to go from a moderate to large level of degradation without the project, reaching very low with the project

? Follow-up question : The gap between degradation levels seems reasonable, but what landscape and project practices/activities would this be corresponding to?

Response to follow up question:

Reference made to the response above that project practices/ activities will be identified during the PPG and prioritized according to their climate change mitigation potential.

iv. 5,208 hectares deemed to stay at an extreme level of degradation without the project, reaching very low with the project

o Response - have changed the value with the project from 'very low' to 'Moderate'. No change to the value without the project which still starts at 'Extreme'. The 5,208 ha was identified as severely degraded and efforts will be made to double down on reversing this over the course of the project.

? Follow-up question : This is the only justification that refers to the fact that this landscape has been identified already. What project practices/activities would this entail?

Response to follow up question:

Reference made to the response above that project practices/ activities will be identified during the PPG and prioritized according to their climate change mitigation potential. However, it is likely that some serious restoration will be required and the following strategies will be considered during the PPG by the subject-matter experts:

? Reforestation with Native Species: Planting native tree species that are adapted to local conditions and support local biodiversity. The selection of species will consider their carbon sequestration potential, resilience to climate change, and benefits to local wildlife.

? Assisted Natural Regeneration: This method encourages the natural recovery of forests by protecting and nurturing the growth of naturally occurring vegetation. It can be more cost-effective than planting trees and helps maintain genetic diversity.

? Agroforestry: Integrating trees with crop and livestock farming can provide economic benefits to local communities while enhancing biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Agroforestry systems can include fruit trees, timber trees, and other useful plant species.

? Forest Protection and Management: Protecting existing forests from logging, mining, and other destructive activities. Effective management practices, including community-based forest management, can ensure the sustainability of both natural and planted forests.

? Restoration of Forest Ecosystem Services: Beyond tree planting, restoring ecosystems involves rehabilitating water sources, soil quality, and wildlife habitats. This holistic approach helps in building a resilient forest ecosystem.

? Community Engagement and Education: Involving local communities in restoration efforts is essential for long-term success. Education about the benefits of forest conservation and sustainable practices can foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.

? Research and Monitoring: Continuous research on local ecology, climate change impacts, and effective restoration techniques is necessary. Monitoring the progress of restoration activities helps in adapting strategies as needed.

? Incorporating Climate-Resilient Species: Selecting species that are resilient to predicted changes in climate will ensure the long-term survival and effectiveness of the reforested areas.

(RR) The agency should at this point adjust the levels on the ExAct sheet, and provide a justification of why the consultations deemed that this repartition of hectares per degradation levels was chosen in connection with identified landscapes and with practices expected to be implemented. Having an intent to reduce degradation levels does not mean that the activities put in place by the project will be sufficient to reach this intent. Clarifying this point will also clarify if the theory of change of this project is consistent from a CCM perspective. Further details can then be provided during PPG phase for data that is not yet available.

Response:

There are no changes warranted to the values in the ExAct sheet based on the responses provided above. In fact, the ExAct sheet does not factor in a further 4,400 ha envisioned for the TG-CH lagoon system (2,200 ha) and a further 2,200 ha of terrestrial forest under Core Indicator 3. All commitments have been submitted for approval to the highest

political authority in Vietnam. While the project appreciates that having an intent to reduce degradation levels does not mean that the activities put in place by the project will be sufficient to reach this intent, this is why the project has built in Output 3.1.1 to undertake climate vulnerability assessments and to prioritize restorations strategies on the basis of their climate change mitigation potential.

(RR) I have summarized below the main suggestions to bring this to conclusion :

- **Adjusting the level to very low for the first segment of landscape instead of none**

- **Clarifying how the choice of hectarage segmentation was done (if it is based on high carbon ecosystem landscapes already identified or a theoretical assumption of what the core indicator 4 landscape is composed of based on expert knowledge of CVL landscapes or based on studies/samples)**

- **Clarifying if it is already known or not what practices are expected to be implemented to achieve these different levels of forest management in the above segments ? if it is not known, clarifying why it is estimated that the level of effort is sufficient to achieve these degradation levels.**

Response:

? Bullet 1: per response provided above the projects will keep the level at ?None? as the intent is to eliminate all forms of degradation at the outset of the project and not maintain the status quo.

? Bullet 2: Per response above the sub-segmentation of the 130,352 ha was undertaken by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment together with WWF Vietnam into sub-parcels ranging from highly intact protection forest to very poor / highly degraded protection forest.

? Bullet 3: It is not known what practices will be deployed as this will be dependent on the studies and site visits envisioned during the PPG phase.

11/16/23

a) See completed EX-ACT file.

b) Reference is made to the comment above 4.2(a) regarding the justification and thought process for selecting the CVL as the geographic scope for this process. There is text underscoring this in the narrative, which is again reinforced in the description of the Core Indicators, in the context of GEBs. There is no change to the core indicator targets as

these have been discussed at length with the Executing Partner. See additional text on GEBs following the description of core indicator targets.

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

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?

b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?

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

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes, if the efforts at financial sustainability and resource mobilization, along with the policy/legal reform are successful.

Agency's Comments

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

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

1.) Cleared.

2.) Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

1.) Please describe the global significance of the target landscape(s)-via an internationally accepted measure/or equivalent data reference (e.g. KBA or equivalent, WWF data etc) and include a description of the Global Environmental Benefits expected. Recalculate the core indicator targets as necessary.

2.) The ?innovative financial mechanisms for triple benefits? outlined in the financial components look a lot like carbon credits ? this should be clarified as it would make the project non-eligible from a CCM perspective.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

a) Reference is made to responses on comments 4.2(a) and 6.1(a).

b) There is no mention of implementing carbon credits anywhere in the concept. The focus will be to develop a legal framework to establish financial mechanisms and sustainable financing tools to incentivize investment in effective landscape management and biodiversity conservation, with transparent performance criteria. Further due diligence is anticipated during the PPG phase.

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's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

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's Comments

HF 11/16/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

Please address each KM GBF target identified for this project providing a statement of the project's expected contribution to the target identified.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

Reference is made to the table that has been developed showing the key KM GBF targets and a series of corresponding alignment statements for each.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/16/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

No, please provide.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

Reference is made to Tables 4, 5 and 6 within Annex J (stakeholder assessment) for an exhaustive list of stakeholders consulted during the PIF development (with corresponding dates).

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 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's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

Cleared.

HF 11/1/23:

The Annex A Financing table should reflect the programming of funds to the indented focal areas (would presumably based on project objective, outcomes and core indicators). This column currently contains BD and CCM, whereas the narrative on focal area alignment also includes LD. Please make adjustments to the 'programming of funds' as needed and in a commensurate balance (generally speaking) to the core indicator targets/outcomes and the Rio Markers selected (currently CCM is selected as primary though it seems that BD might be the primary, particularly given the questions regarding CCM targets and eligibility of some of the activities (e.g. carbon credits?)) Please address as needed.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

The project Theory of Change focuses on biodiversity and climate change mitigation, so the Annex A financing table remains correct and the narrative on focal area alignment has been updated to focus on BD and CCM.

See adjustment to the Rio Markers now prioritizing BD as primary.

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Desertification
21	0	12	0

<< Rio Markers may be expanded in GEF 8 beyond markers for CCM and CCA >>

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/16/23:

Cleared. Please see email addendum to LOE (that includes the required footnote) from OFP in the documents tab.

11/6/23:

The LOE template used for this project removed the footnote that conditions the selection of the executing partner to the following: "Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate". In March 2023 Agencies were

informed that LoEs with modifications cannot be accepted and will be returned?. While the removal of the footnote seems to be trivial, it is not: this footnote reduces the chances of having an executing partner that does not meet the fiduciary and procurement standards required to safely execute the project. Please get an email from the OFP accepting this footnote to be part of the LoE (this is an alternative to request a new LoE) and resubmit.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

The OFP has sent the GEF Sec an email accepting the required footnote. We have attached this email to the resubmission.

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

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/16/23:

a.) Cleared.

b.) Cleared. Please include a list of the site coordinates in the submission of CEO endorsement request. They are not legible from the maps in Annex C, nor in the Portal upload.

HF 11/1/23:

a.) The maps in Annex C are not easily read due to low resolution. Please include higher resolution maps of the intended project location(s).

b.) Please provide georeferenced for site locations/landscape(s).

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

See updated map in Annex C, now also clearly showing georeferenced coordinates.

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23

Cleared

HF 11/1/23:

Yes, but please double check what is selected as primary vs secondary to ensure this tracks with the emphasis of the investment and expected outcomes/results and programming of funds.

Agency's Comments

11/16/23

This has been updated to note that Biodiversity is primary and CCM secondary.

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/1/23:

Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

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

the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments NA

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/29/23:

Yes, PM and PPO cleared for PIF approval and WP inclusion.

HF 11/17/23:

Not yet, please address remaining comments and resubmit.

HF 11/1/23:

Not yet, please address comments in review sheet and resubmit.

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

HF 11/17/23:

1.) During PPG please further develop and incorporate financial sustainability/resource mobilization within Outcome 1 (Output 1.1.3?) and well aligned with the GEF-8 BD strategy entry-point 1.

2.) Please include a list of the site coordinates in the submission of CEO endorsement request. They are not legible from the maps in Annex C, nor in the Portal upload.

3.) In PPG there should be full elaboration/clarification of plans for 'financial mechanisms and sustainable financing tools' and plans for how this will be built-in and support long term sustainability of project impacts.

4.) During PPG phase, please update the EXACT calculation in line with GEF guidelines, clarifying all activity data on the basis of a sound justification in line with the project theory of change and interventions, not on the basis of political intent only. Conservative assumptions and sources should be provided, on the basis of the confirmed landscapes identified for interventions and of the confirmed practices to be implemented to address the drivers of degradation in these landscapes.

5.) Please provide detailed CCM interventions and corresponding GHG emission reductions estimate in line with GEF guidelines, programming directions and theory of change, taking into account comments from this review sheet in the core indicator section.

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	11/1/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/17/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/29/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		