



# Land Degradation Neutrality for Sustainable Use and Conservation of Uruguay Rangelands

**Review CEO Approval and Make a recommendation**

## **Basic project information**

**GEF ID**

11061

**Countries**

Uruguay

**Project Name**

Land Degradation Neutrality for Sustainable Use and Conservation of Uruguay  
Rangelands

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

4/26/2024

**Review completed by PM**

5/16/2024

**Program Manager**

Pascal Martinez

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Project Type**

MSP

**PIF  
CEO**

**Part I - General Project Information**

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

FAO is expected to be executing a significant part of the project (at least 44% of the budget) but it is not reported in the Project Information table. Please complete as necessary to reflect the institutional arrangements.

**June 16, 2024:**

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared

Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

FAO will only carry out evaluations, audits and spot-check as per usual implementing agency activities. As per Government request, the following 4 institutions will execute the project through letters of agreement, thus FAO is not executing these funds but the following institutions are:

?Instituto Nacional de Investigaci?n Agropecuaria (INIA): USD 350,000

?Instituto Plan Agropecuario (IPA): USD 200,000

?Udelar-Facultad de Agronom?a: USD 65,000

?Federaci?n Uruguaya de Grupos CREA (FUCREA): USD 100,000.

This has been reflected in the budget.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**2. Project Summary.**

**a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?**

**b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

a) and b) The summary is a bit long but it is clear and comprehensive. Cleared.

Agency Response

**3. Project Description Overview**

**a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**

**b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**

**c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?**

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

**e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 14, 2024:**

a) Yes, cleared.

b) The outputs under the outcome 1.2 are missing in the table. Please complete.

c)

c.1. In Component 2 of the Project Description Overview table, there is no mention of any gender consideration while this is important for this component for the proposed dialogue

(outcome 2.1) and the access to innovative financial mechanisms (outcome 2.3). Please include a gender consideration on this component where appropriate.

c.2. In addition, please ensure that the M&E is gender-responsive and that the Gender Action Plan is monitored and reported on.

d) No, the co-financing contribution to PMC is not proportionate compared with the GEF contribution to PMC. The GEF Financing to PMC is 8.2% of the GEF Financing to the project while the co-Financing contribution is 5.2%. If the GEF contribution is kept at 9.0%, for a co-financing of \$11,182,482, the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$1,006,423 instead of \$582,403 (which is 5.2%). 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 amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion.

	Sub Total (\$)	1,630,292.00	11,182,482.00
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC) ⓘ</b>			
	GET	146,192.00	582,403.00
	Sub Total(\$)	146,192.00	582,403.00
	Total Project Cost(\$)	1,776,484.00	11,764,885.00

e) Yes, the PMC below 10% for an MSP. Cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

b), c) and d) Thank you for the consideration and amendments. Cleared.

Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

a) no response needed

b) Apologies for the oversight, outputs have been now included in the portal entry

c) c.1. To address the observations, gender considerations were integrated into Component 2 by including gender-responsive targets and outputs for Outcomes 2.1 and 2.3. Specifically, added targets for functioning gender-sensitive inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms and reports on innovative finance sources with gender equity provisions. Outputs now emphasize a gender-responsive approach to coordination mechanisms, dialogue processes, and innovative financial mechanisms, ensuring equitable access and benefits for both women and men.

c.2. Additionally, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework was enhanced to be gender-responsive by incorporating gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis. Also included sections in the Project Progress Reports (PPRs) and Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) to detail gender-specific participation rates, benefits, and issues. The Gender Action Plan will be regularly monitored and reported on, with specific sections in all project reports highlighting progress, challenges, and lessons learned related to gender equity. Please refer to annex G of the word ProDoc for detailed information.

d) Duly noted. Co-financing PMC portion has been increased so PMC amounts are proportional.

e)no response needed

#### **4. Project Outline**

##### **A. Project Rationale**

**a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?**

**b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**

**c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 14, 2024:**

a) Yes but please replace "NDT" with "LDN" the acronym in English.

b) Yes and the private sector is seen mainly as a stakeholder. Cleared.

c) N/A

**June 16, 2024:**

a) Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

## Agency Response

11 June 2024

a) Apologies, this has been corrected

b),c), no response needed

### 5 B. Project Description

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

**b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?**

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

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

**e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

May 15, 2024:

a)

a.1. Please clarify what "DPSIR" means.

a.2. Please add the title of Component 1 which is missing in the component description.

b) Yes, cleared.

c) The proposed components are consistent with the identified environmental degradation, drivers and barriers but it is not clear how this \$2 million project can have enough impact to reverse a trend driven by a sector representing 78% of exported goods leaving in the country some 6440 million USD. Please elaborate further on this aspect.

d), e), f) Yes, cleared.

g) The improved capacities, monitoring and sustainable land management approaches are expected to enhance the resilience to future changes. Cleared.

h) Yes, cleared.

i) Yes, in the Annex K of the Prodoc. Cleared.

j) Yes, it is in particular included in Component 4. Cleared.

k) We know that the forestry promotion law is a risk for the project and the Component 2 provides opportunities to improve policy coherence but the how is not clear. Please elaborate further on this important aspect highlighting key policies, regulations or subsidies that could counteract the intended project outcomes (if there are others than the forestry promotion law) and how will that be addressed.

l) Yes, the work on coordination, policies and financial mechanisms at different levels from national to local should be transformative and innovative. Cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

a), c) and k) Thank you for the clarification, amendment and additional information. Cleared.

**Agency Response**

**11 June 2024**

a) a.1 The DPSIR (Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response) framework is a tool used for analyzing environmental problems. It provides a structured approach to identify the Drivers (socio-economic factors), Pressures (human activities causing stress), State (condition of the environment), Impacts (effects on ecosystems and human health), and Responses (actions

taken to address the issues) related to environmental management. <http://glossary.eea.europa.eu/EEAGlossary>

This Explanation was added on footnote 26.

a.2. Noted, the title and paragraphs 26, 27 and 28 were added

c) Noted, paragraphs 19-25 were added to showcase the integral approach of the project in response to the comment

k) Component 2 has been designed with a set of actions at national, local, and sectorial levels to create a cohesive policy environment. Nationally, it will promote laws for grassland conservation and align land use incentives with conservation efforts through legislative engagement. Locally, the project will collaborate with governments to enhance land use and management of grasslands, revise Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, and promote economic incentives such as green finance and credit lines. Sectorially, collaboration with producers' organizations and financial institutions will develop financial products that encourage sustainable land use. These actions will support sustainable rangeland management across Uruguay.

Paragraph 42, 51 and 52 were added and more details in paragraph 101 were provided on this aspect.

b),d),e),f), g),h),i),j),l) no response needed

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

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

been included?

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 14, 2024:**

a) Yes, cleared.

b) As mentioned above, FAO is expected to be executing a significant part of the project (at least 44% of the budget). To enable the GEF Secretariat to evaluate such exception to GEF policy, please provide a letter from the OFP justifying such arrangement, including the activities targeted in the exception and their budget, and demonstrating that not other agency than FAO (in particular local agency) can implement these activities.

c) Yes, cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

b) Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

a), c) no response needed.

b) FAO will only carry out evaluations, audits and spot-check as per usual implementing agency activities. As per Government request, the following 4 institutions will execute the project through letters of agreement, thus FAO is not executing these funds but the following institutions are:

?Instituto Nacional de Investigaci?n Agropecuaria (INIA): USD 350,000

?Instituto Plan Agropecuario (IPA): USD 200,000

?Udelar-Facultad de Agronom?a: USD 65,000

?Federaci?n Uruguay de Grupos CREA (FUCREA): USD 100,000.

This has been reflected in the budget.

**5.3 Core indicators**

**a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?**

**b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?  
Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**May 13, 2024:**

a) and b) Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

#### 5.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?**
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**May 15, 2024:**

a) The climate risk analysis remains vague. At this stage, more clarification on threats and impacts are needed to be able to consider appropriate mitigation measures. Please outline the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at the project location or at country level if not available at local scale (including a time horizon, ideally 2050, if the data is available) and list key potential hazards for the project that are related to the climate scenarios as well as their related mitigation measures. For further guidance, the Agency may want to refer to STAP guidance available here: <https://www.stagef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening>.

b) Yes, cleared.

c) Yes, the ESS supporting document is uploaded in the Portal and included in the Annex I of the Prodoc. Cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

a) Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

## Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

a) More details have been added in paragraph 11 in the project rationale section. Moreover, the climate risk section of the key risk table in the portal now includes detailed projections for temperature and rainfall variability by 2050. It identifies hazards such as extreme rainfall, flooding, droughts, and heatwaves, and outlines corresponding mitigation measures. These measures include sustainable land management practices, integrated water management, enhanced climate data services, policy integration, and innovative financial mechanisms. For detailed information, please refer to the climate risk screening that has been uploaded in the portal (Annex F).

b),c), no response needed

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

## Agency Response

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

## Agency Response

**6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Thank you for the information provided. In addition, please clarify how this project is aligned and contribute to the country engagement in the context of UNCCD and LDN such as the LDN-CSP.

**June 16, 2024:**

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

## Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

The project provides technical guidance and tools for monitoring and assessing land degradation, including geospatial data and remote sensing technologies, mirroring the technical assistance offered by the LDN CSP. Additionally, the project includes training and capacity-building activities for government officials, local communities, and other stakeholders, strengthening local capacities in line with the LDN CSP's emphasis on enhancing stakeholder knowledge and skills. The project leverages significant co-financing and mobilizes additional financial resources, ensuring sustainable funding for its activities, consistent with the LDN CSP's objective of mobilizing financial resources for LDN initiatives. It supports the integration of LDN targets into national and regional development plans, reflecting the LDN CSP's focus on policy integration. The project promotes multi-stakeholder engagement, encouraging collaboration between government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and local communities, aligning with the LDN CSP's aim to foster broad-based stakeholder engagement. Finally, the project facilitates the exchange of best practices, experiences, and lessons learned, supporting the LDN CSP's goal of disseminating knowledge and promoting collaborative learning among countries. This alignment underscores the project's strategic approach to achieving LDN and contributing to global efforts to combat land degradation.

Paragraph 96 was added to include more information on how the project aligns to the country LDN CSP.

**6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Generating biodiversity benefits is not the main objective of this project but 2 GBF targets are identified anyway. Cleared.

## Agency Response

### **7 D. Policy Requirements**

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Under stakeholder engagement:

1. There is no response under "We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have

been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement". Please inform with a "Yes".

2. Regarding the CSO, the option "Consulted only" should be informed with a "No" if the CSO is expected to be Member of Advisory Body/Contractor and "Other". Please amend as needed.

3. Regarding the CSO, the "Other" option is informed with a "Yes". Please clarify this other role.

**June 16, 2024:**

1, 2 and 3. Thank you for the amendments and clarification. Cleared.

### Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

1. Apologies for the oversight, this has been now checked.

2. Noted, consulted only option has been removed

3. Please note that the "other" role justification had been included in the socio-economic benefits section because no text box appears in the portal when the option is selected.

**Stakeholder Engagement**

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes  No (provide comments)

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body, Contractor;

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

The justification is the following: Civil Society will integrate the Advisory Council that plays a significant role in providing strategic guidance and fostering stakeholder engagement and its responsibilities are paramount for the project's success. Also, in Output 2.1.1, civil society's presence within COTAMA enhances collaboration and coordination for LDN and Biodiversity Conservation. They provide diverse perspectives, local knowledge, and community engagement, ensuring the inclusion of stakeholders' concerns and priorities in awareness-raising and monitoring activities

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, it is the Annex K of the uploaded Prodoc. Cleared.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, it is the Annex J of the uploaded Prodoc. Cleared.

Agency Response

**7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**8 Annexes**

**Annex A: Financing Tables**

**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

In the table "Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation", the resource from LD FA is \$945,250 while it should be \$1,000,000 to correspond to the total amount of the project which

is \$2,000,000 (according to the actual use of fund and the OFP LoE). Please correct the table "Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation".

**June 16, 2024:**

Well noted, tank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

Please note that the PPG amount (54,750 USD) was subtracted from LD STAR allocation, this gives the total of 945,250 USD for LD STAR allocation at CEO Endorsement stage for the project.

The portal does not validate \$ 1,000,000.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAD	GET	Uruguay	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
FAD	GET	Uruguay	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
				Total GEF Resources(\$)	2,000,000.00

\*At CEO endorsement/approval stage, total country STAR utilized as Sources of funds doesn't equal total country STAR utilized as Used of funds from the GEF financing table.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

**a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**May 13, 2024:**

In the Annex D of the Portal entry, please check the numbers in the column "Amount Spent To date". Their sum is different from the Total. Please correct where needed.

**June 16, 2024:**

Thank you for the correction. Cleared.

Agency Response  
**11 June 2024**

Noted. Nonetheless, amounts seem to be correct already.

**8.3 Source of Funds**

**Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?**

**Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**May 13, 2024:**

1. No. Please address the comment above regarding the FA allocation.
2. In addition, we note that the project title is different in the OFP's LoE and in the Portal. This was already the case at PIF level and it has not been seen. Please upload a note from the agency in the Portal confirming both are the names of the same project.

**June 16, 2024:**

1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

**11 June 2024**

1. please refer to comment above

Agency Response

2. Apologies for this, a note from the agency has been uploaded in the portal (other documents) confirming that the three titles refer to the same project with GEF ID 11061.

**8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

**e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

The title of the project in the co-financing letters is different in the Portal and in the OFP's letter (there are actually 3 different names in the submission package) and the co-financing letters don't include the GEF ID for this project. Please upload a note from the agency in the Portal confirming both are the names of the same project (this confirmation could be in the same note as the one requested above under "8.3 Source of funds" to fix the mismatching between the Portal and the LoE).

**June 16, 2024:**

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

Noted. A note has been prepared and uploaded confirming that the three names refer to the same portal

**Annex B: Endorsements**

**8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:**

**Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries**

**and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

**Annex C: Project Results Framework**

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

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

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

a) The GEF core indicators 4.3 and 6.1 are reported under the component 4 while they result from the Outcome 3.2. Please remove these indicators from the component 4 of the project results framework and replace with relevant indicators.

b), c) and d) Yes, cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

a) The GEF core indicators 4.3 and 6.1 are still final targets of component 4 but they have been added under the Outcome 3.2. Cleared.

## Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

a) Apologies for the oversight, indicators 4.3 and 6.1 have been substituted with respective targets.

b),c),d) no response needed

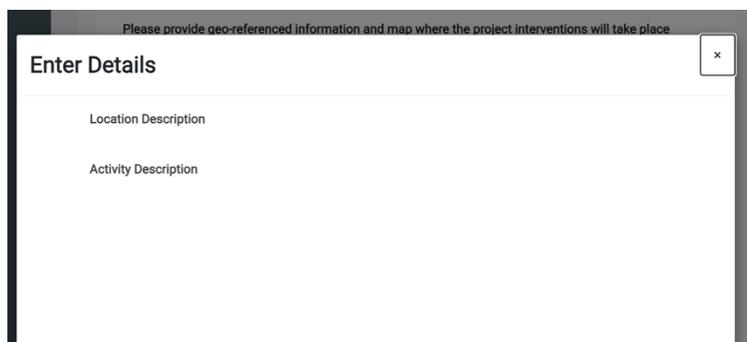
### **Annex E: Project map and coordinates**

**8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?**

## Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 13, 2024:**

1. The links provided in the column "Location & Activity Description" open an empty page as below:



Please correct or remove the link.

2. A map of land use at country scale is providing including a very large so-called "Selected area of interest" (in Spanish). As a result we don't see clearly and precisely the project targeted areas. Please provide a map with text in English showing at least the 3 targeted watersheds.

**June 16, 2024:**

1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

## Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

1. Noted, the link has been updated.

2. The picture is a screenshot of the Google Earth Engine app developed to identify the project location area, which is the all area circumscribed in the purple area.

A new picture identifying specifically the 3 watersheds with polygons has been uploaded.

By opening the link provided (<https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/uruguay>) language settings can be changed. In any case a new picture in English has been provided.

Please refer to Annex B in the prodoc word document for more details regarding the project area baseline.

**Annex G: GEF Budget template**

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

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 15, 2024:**

a) The budget table in Annex G of the Portal cannot be read. Please try to adjust the format to make the budget table easier to read in the Portal entry and upload a spreadsheet/word document that is readable so GEF Secretariat can do the due diligence ? when resubmitted, GEF Secretariat will review and provide comments if appropriate... (note: the budget is missing in the Annex D of the Prodoc).

b) Partially:

b.1. The project coordinator should be charged to the PMC but 69% of its cost is actually covered by components. Please amend and/or justify (in any case, 31% of the project coordinator time shouldn't be enough to effectively manage the project).

b.2. The office supplies and computers should be charged to the PMC and not the components (at least not all if justified). Please amend accordingly.

c) Yes in the Prodoc. Cleared.

**June 16, 2024:**

a) Thank you for providing a more readable table and uploading the budget. Cleared.

b) Thank you for the amendments and clarification. Cleared.

## Agency Response

**11 June 2024**

a) Apologies, some adjustments were made to try to make the table more readable in the portal entry. An excel file with the budget has been uploaded as annex in the portal.

b1) noted, some amendments have been made to the PMC. More specifically, PMC has been raised to 10%, project coordinator cost is now covered only by component 2 and 4 and justifications of this were added in Technical Project Coordinator ToRs functions, please see annex L of word prodoc.

b2) Noted, office supplies are now charged to PMC. Moreover, appellation for computers has been changed to Land Monitoring Equipments, the budget line is in fact referring to tools that will be used to achieve the objectives of the projects and effectively monitor LDN and biodiversity conservation of rangelands progresses throughout the years of project implementation and thus charged in project components. Specifically, they will support the establishment of knowledge management systems, stakeholder consultations, capacity-building workshops, and the development of the Decision Support System (DSS). These tools are critical for the effective execution and success of the project activities.

Both changes have been reflected in the budget.

### **Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes**

**8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.**

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

## Agency Response

### **Additional Annexes**

#### **9. GEFSEC DECISION**

##### **9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation**

**Is the project recommended for approval**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 15, 2024:**

Not yet. Please address the comments raised above.

**June 16, 2024:**

Thank you for addressing the comments. The project is now recommended for CEO approval.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**9.3 Review Dates**

	<b>CEO Approval</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>5/31/2024</b>	<b>6/11/2024</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/16/2024</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		