

Minamata Initial Assessment in Liberia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10133

Countries

Liberia

Project Name

Minamata Initial Assessment in Liberia

Agencies

UNIDO

Date received by PM

12/10/2018

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO) □

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Liberia is not a Party to the Minamata Convention. As a signatory to the Convention, Liberia can access resources if a Government Minister provides a letter to the GEF CEO and the ED of UNEP indicating that the Government is taking meaningful steps to becoming a Party to the Convention. The letter provided is not signed by a Government Minister and as such the country has not met the eligibility requirements to access enabling activity funding.

June 14, 2022 - Comment cleared.

The project is aligned with the CW focal area elements.

Agency Response

UNIDO response (10Jun22)

Revised letter and justification letter that EPA ED enjoys Minister equivalent responsibilities and reports to President has been provided by counterpart. Liberia does not have an Environment Minister position in its cabinet, its responsibilities stands with EPA ED position.

Project description summary

Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Co-financing

Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified [and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?]

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Co financing is not required for enabling activities.

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Yes

Agency Response

**Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This is the first MIA for this comment so the question is not applicable.

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Stakeholders.

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?
Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Cost Ranges

If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

YEs, however the endorsement does only includes the Government agency as the agency to implement the project. In this regard please remove UNITAR from the arrangements and budget lines.

June 16, 2022 - comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNIDO response (15Jun22)

In line with the comment and Government endorsement, execution arrangement and related budget lines have been corrected.

UNIDO response (10Jun22)

The updated LoE has been uploaded into the Portal.

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)

GEF Secretariat Comment

No. Please provide evidence that the Executive Director of the EPA ranks as a Minister. The guidance from the COP is very specific and the letters must be signed by a relevant Minister.

While we note that the explanation provided, the requirement is not for the Minister of Environment to sign, only that a Minister can. The reason is that a Government Minister can commit the country to ratification. In this regard the letter must be signed by a Minister who has the authority to commit the Government to ratification.

June 14, 2022 - comment addressed.

Agency Response

UNIDO response (10Jun22)

Revised letter and justification letter that EPA ED enjoys Minister equivalent responsibilities and reports to President has been provided by counterpart. Liberia does not have an Environment Minister position in its cabinet, its responsibilities stands with EPA ED position.

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

At the First Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Parties to the Convention outlined the eligibility to access to the GEF for work under this Convention. In regard to access for Signatory, non-Party countries the following is provided in the guidance of the COP to the GEF:

" Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility."

The letter provided for this application is not from a Minister and therefore does not meet the criteria set by the Parties of the Convention. As a result this project cannot be recommended at this time.

January 31, 2019 - Not at this time, pending a letter from a relevant Minister.

The project will only be eligible if the letter is signed by a minister who can commit the Government to ratification.

June 14, 2022 - please address the comment on the executing agency.

June 16, 2022 - project is recommended for CEO approval

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/31/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/1/2019	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/14/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations