



# Pilot Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD with Support for Enhanced Data/Reporting

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11848

**Countries**

Global (Guatemala, Cuba, Nigeria, Bhutan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay)

**Project Name**

Pilot Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD with Support for Enhanced Data/Reporting

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

1/17/2025

**Review completed by PM**

3/31/2025

**Program Manager**

Ulrich Apel

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Project Type**

EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Section I - Enabling Activity Summary**

**Funding elements.**

**Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?**

**Secretariat's Comments**

01/29/2025:

- Please fill the blanks in Part 1: (a) Reports to UNCCD (b) expected submission through PRAIS per UNCCD (November 2026).

- Project Duration: the project is planned for 24 months: is it sufficient in view of potential review of reports at the CRIC25 in end 2027?

03/21/2025: Addressed.

03/31/2025: It is noted that Guatemala and Cuba have been added to the list of countries and their LoEs uploaded.

Please provide the emails stating that the footnote to the letter template has been removed accidentally and remains valid.

04/17/2025: Has been uploaded.

Cleared

## Agency's Comments

**17 April 2025**

Noted. Emails from the OFPs from Cuba and Guatemala stating that the footnote to the letter template has been removed accidentally and remains valid have been provided. These emails have been merged to the OFP letters.

**20 March 2025**

a) Duly noted. Type of report has been specified.

b) Noted. Project duration has been extended to 3 implementation years to cover this potential review of reports.

### **Cost Ranges.**

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

## Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025:

none

## Agency's Comments

**Enabling activity summary.**

**Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?**

## Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025:

- Please, confirm the number of countries: Is the current proposal developed for 17 countries and the budget calculated accordingly? (The funding for countries and the additional PMC and M&E seem to cause issues. Please contact the PM by email to discuss the best way of presenting the portion of the budget that is not included in the LoEs.)

- If so, please remove four "countries that may join" from the table or submit the missing letters of endorsement. (If they are not available now, another EA can be submitted at a later point in time (before the June 2025 deadline).

- Please confirm if the COP decision 12/COP.16, item 6: "Further invites Global Environment Facility implementing agencies to continue to include a specific output related to strategic objective 5 in its project titled 'Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting'; has been / will be covered within this EA, including through the work with countries in its implementation.

- We request that as per GEF Guidance, gender considerations should be mainstreamed throughout the project, and should report on UNCCD GAP implementation, as relevant. For instance, the project should ensure women and women's organization participation and enhance women's access to knowledge and technology related to the implementation. Under M&E, ensure that gender dimensions are integrated, monitored, and reported on.

03/21/2025: Addressed.

However, please remove the table with the countries in three different categories, it may lead to confusion.

03/31/2025: Addressed.

Cleared

## Agency's Comments

### **28 March 2025**

Noted, removed.

### **20 March 2025**

a) Number of recipient countries amounts to 18.

Budget has been amended accordingly.

Please note that the 5% 'overhead' not included in the LOEs has been distributed into PMC and M&E activities as the GEF portal requires M&E activities. The amount allocated was calculated as follows:

(i) 18 countries @ \$109,590 per country = \$1,972,620

(ii) 5% of \$1,972,620 equals \$98,631

(iii) total project amount is \$2,071,251

The \$98,631 included in point (ii) above was distributed as follows: \$78,631 for PMC and \$20,000 to M&E activities.

b) Guatemala has been moved to the confirmed countries list. The list amounts to 18 confirmed countries with LoEs.

We are expecting letters of endorsement from China and Cuba soon.

c) This is correct. The project will strongly focus on strengthening national level institutional and professional capacities of Parties to the convention. We did not include this text in the title of the PRODOC because it could cause confusion with the enabling activity led by UNEP.

d) Duly noted. A section on Gender Equality makes part of the EA document besides guaranteeing the use of gender sensitive indicators under the M&E component

## **Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information**

### **Eligibility Criteria.**

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

**Secretariat's Comments**YES

**Agency's Comments**

**Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

**Secretariat's Comments**

01/29/2025:

The arrangement have been discussed upstream and adequately described. Program Manager approves the partial execution support provided by FAO.

Cleared

Agency's Comments

**20 March 2025**

No response required

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025:

Yes.

Please explore the inclusion of tracking of resources spent in each country on 1) the use of satellite imagery, 2) including GEO-LDN, 3) Land Degradation Neutrality/Land-use planning, 4) the involvement of CSO, 5) gender issues, 6) the use of WOCAT. This may include other resources than GEF resources.

Background: Several decisions taken at UNCCD COP16 (see e.g. 11/COP.16) request parties to track these resources. If applicable, include this point in the grant agreements with countries. Note: this is not a mandatory requirement by GEF, it is a suggestion to parties with the aim to improve tracking of resources.

Further, please ensure that gender dimensions are integrated, monitored, and reported on.

03/21/2025: Addressed.

03/31/2025: We noticed a discrepancy on gender between this document: PRAIS5 FAO Supported - EA Prodoc - clean v4 - new countries\_28March2025 and the portal version.

While the PRAIS5 FAO Supported - EA Prodoc - clean v4 - new countries\_28March2025 addressed the gender-related comments, the portal version does not. Please upload the updated prodoc in the portal to reflect the gender equality considerations that address our previous comments, and for consistency.

04/17/2025: Has been uploaded / inserted.

Cleared

## Agency's Comments

**17 April 2025**

Noted. Updated information has been inserted in the GEF portal to match the latest information from the Agency Document (from 04 April 2025)

**20 March 2025**

Noted. The program will use satellite imagery as the basis to develop the information needed for the PRAIS report. Specifically, the program will build national capacities to develop national land cover maps (including transition), trends in land productivity, trends in carbon stocks, proportion of degraded land, voluntary targets, as well drought monitoring.

We are coordinating project activities with the UNCCD (including the GM) as well as GEO LDN and WOCAT.

We will make an effort to track expenditures in these areas.

### **Section 3. Information Tables**

**GEF resource availability.**

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

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**Yes

## Agency Response

**20 March 2025**

No response required

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):  
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's CommentsYes

Agency's Comments

**20 March 2025**

No response required

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

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025:

On the table "GEF Financing Resources": there are 17 countries listed. The total includes non-endorsed amounts, which may need to be separated out for transparency in a second line in the financing table. (please contact the PM by email to explain).

- Column "GEF Enabling Activity Financing"?  $17 \times \text{US\$}109,500 = \text{US\$}1,863,030$  (table shows US\$ 1,956,181, which is wrong)
- Column "Agency Fee"?  $17 \times \text{US\$} 10,410 = \text{US\$} 176,970$  (table shows US\$ 185,837, which is wrong)
- Column "Total"?  $17 \times \text{US\$} 120,000 = \$2,040,000$  (table shows US\$ 2,142,018, which is wrong)

03/21/2025: The budget and its calculation is clear. However, in the table "GEF Financing Resources" there must be 19 line items listed (18 countries and 1 global set aside for PMC support), all funded by LD global set asides. Please include those individual line items.

03/31/2025: Addressed. The financing table has been fully completed for 19 countries. Note that Guatemala and Cuba have been added to this resubmission.

Cleared



## Agency's Comments

**28 March 2025**

Noted. By having added Cuba, the table "GEF Financing Resources" has 20 line items now.  
(19 countries + 1 global set aside for PMC support)

**20 March 2025**

Noted.

18 countries take part in this proposal.

GEF EA Financing for this proposal amounts to USD 2,071,251:

	Allocation per country	Program allocation
Project allocation	109,590	1,972,620
PMC support (overhead)	-	98,631
Subtotal project activities	109,590	2,071,251
Agency fee	10,410	196,768
Total (program + fee)	120,000	2,268,019

- Column ?GEF Enabling Activity Financing?  $(18 \times \text{US\$}109,590) + \text{US\$} 98,631 = \text{US\$} 2,071,251$

- Column ?Agency Fee?  $\text{US\$} 2,071,251 \times 0.095 = \text{US\$} 196,768$

- Column ?Total?  $\text{US\$} 2,071,251 + \text{US\$} 196,768 = \text{US\$} 2,268,019$

## Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's CommentsYes

## Agency's Comments

**20 March 2025**

No response required

**Country endorsement.**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal**

#### Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025: Not fully.

- We see that the LoE from Nigeria has been uploaded to the documents section of the portal. Similarly to all other LoEs, please create the link for the LoE within the last column of table H.
- Please add and link outstanding LoEs (i.e. Guatemala, if available). (And please revise the financial figures in the EA according to the total number of countries.)
- For those countries that is missing the information, please request the agency to include the date of the LoE in the table (INCLUDE dates, all field must be filled).
- The LoEs from Mongolia, Bhutan, Panama and Uruguay do not include the footnote related to the executing agency.

03/21/2025: Addressed.

- For LoEs with missing footnote, confirmation emails from OFPs have been uploaded to the portal.

03/31/2025: Please also provide emails for Cuba and Guatemala.

04/17/2025: Has been uploaded.

Cleared

#### Agency's Comments

**17 April 2025**

Noted, emails provided for Cuba and Guatemala.

**20 March 2025**

a) Noted. Endorsement letter duly uploaded:

Focal Point Name	Focal Point Title	Ministry	Signed Date	
Mr. Stanley Jonah	Director	Federal Ministry of Environment-Nigeria	9/3/2024	   

b) Done. OFP Endorsement letter for Guatemala has been uploaded. Financial figures have been revised in the EA document and GEF portal.

c) Noted. Remaining dates (Serbia and Kazakhstan) have been included. Date of the creation of the document have been taken.

d) Noted. We are attaching emails from the focal points indicating the following:

With respect to the endorsement letter for the ?Pilot Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD with Support for Enhanced Data/Reporting?, please note that the footnote has inadvertently been removed. However, the OFP herewith confirms that the execution agency selection will be ?Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate?

#### **Response to Comments**

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

**Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Commentsnone received

Agency's Comments

**20 March 2025**

No response required

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's Commentsnone received

Agency's Comments

**20 March 2025**

No response required

**Council comments**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**STAP comments**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**Project Budget Table.**

**Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025: Not fully.

- The budget provided in Annex B is missing two key columns that are required per guidelines. The first is related to the detailed description of each activity and the other is related to the responsible entity executing/receiving funds for each activity within the project. Please use the standard budget template provided in the guidelines on the GEF project and Program cycle (page 48). Once the budget has been fully presented, we will review and provide comments on the content.

- Budget table misses the column ?Responsible entity? (see pages 15-19 in the attached CEO Endorsement Request Portal view)

03/21/2025: Addressed.

03/31/2025: ADDITIONAL Comments on the budget table:

a. Please delete the budget table pasted in the field of Annex G which is causing a duplication of information CEO Endorsement Request PDF (which is the document that is circulated to Council and later web posted) pages 16 and 17.

b. GOE (PMC) is not a valid category. Please clarify what this amount will be used for by the national execution partners. If it is for general management purposes, consider budgeting the amount as national management and coordination activities (e.g. for interagency coordination required to obtain grant agreement signatures, etc.).

	GOE (PMC)	Lumpsum	1	18,630				-	18,630	18,630	National Executing Partner	8,000	7,000	3,630
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c. We will review the budget table again with the resubmission and provide comments as appropriate.

04/17/2025: Has been addressed.

#### Agency's Comments

##### **17 April 2025**

a. Noted, budget table removed from Annex G field.

b. Addressed, this budget line has been removed. PMC has been budgeted to cover the Program Coordinator cost, who will be ensuring timely implementation of the pilot program.

##### **20 March 2025**

a) Noted. Missing columns have been inserted in the budget table i.e ?Responsible Entity? and ?Detailed Description?.

b) Noted. Budget table has been amended accordingly. ?Responsible entity? column has been inserted.

**Environmental and Social Safeguards.**

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Commentsn/a

Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

01/29/2025: No. Please address comments made in this review.

03/21/2025: No. Please address comments made in this review.

03/31/2025: No. Please address comments made in this review.

04/17/2025: Yes. Enabling Activity is recommended for CEO approval.

**REVIEW DATE(S)**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>1/29/2025</b>	<b>3/20/2025</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>3/21/2025</b>	<b>3/28/2025</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>3/31/2025</b>	<b>4/17/2025</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/17/2025</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		