

# Evolving and strengthening institutional capacity, biosafety tools and measures for the sustainable use of living modified organisms in South Africa

Review PPG Request and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

12136

**Countries**

South Africa

**Project Name**

Evolving and strengthening institutional capacity, biosafety tools and measures for the sustainable use of living modified organisms in South Africa

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

1/15/2026

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Razan Nimir

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

GBFF

## **GEF-8 Project Preparation Grant request Review Sheet**

### **1. General Project Information / Eligibility**

**a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GBFF funding?**

**b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

### **II. Indicative Project Overview**

**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?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/8/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

**c) Are the components adequately funded?**

**d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional (only for Multi-trust Funds PPGs with BD from the GEF Trust Fund)?**

**e) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for projects of more than \$2 million or 10% for projects of less than \$2 million? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

**2/19/2026**

Thank you for this submission. For this project to be further considered in the selection round, please address the comments included in this review sheet and resubmit as soon as possible.

C) PMC is 5.26%, while the the recommended threshold for projects up to \$5 million is 5%. Please consider to reduce the budget.

Agency's Comments

2/20/2026

Thank you for the review sheet. As per the guidance received, the PMC has been reduced to 4.99%, residual funds of USD 7,414.99 have been added to component 3 to support the activities on institutional and human capacity building.

**III. Project Rationale**

a. Does the project adequately describe the: (i) current situation/baseline conditions within the project geographic area or project thematic area; (ii) problem(s) that the project will address; (iii) goal and objectives of the project; and (iv) justification for the project intervention; and (v) expected results including the Global Environmental Benefits and an estimate of the project's contributions to the relevant biodiversity core indicators.

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

**IV. Project Description**

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 project components and activities identified in the theory of change adequately described.

c) Is a list of stakeholders that will be involved in the project and their roles in the design and implementation of the project provided?

d) Are the Specific Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with identified and an explanation provided on and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

**V. Does the proposal adequately describe how the project meets the following criteria:**

a) Potential to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GEF-8 Core Indicators for biodiversity);

b) Alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;

- c) **The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;**
- d) **Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and**
- e) **Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.**

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

#### **VI. Project results indicators**

**Is the table correctly populated and consistent with the Project Description?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

#### **VII. Project Financing Tables**

**a) Are all the tables correctly populated?**

**b) Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines (only for projects with GEF TF components)?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

#### **VIII. Project Endorsement**

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

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

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

Secretariat's Comments

3/9/2026

Cleared

Agency's Comments

#### **IX. GEFSEC Decision**

**a. Is the PPG recommended for technical clearance?**

**b. Additional comments to be considered by the Agency during project preparation**

Secretariat's Comments

**3/9/2026**

This PPG request has been selected by the CEO as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBFF selection round. During project preparation, please consider the following:

1- Please ensure that the Theory of Change in the CEO Endorsement Request clearly articulates how the different intervention pathways (e.g., risk assessment, monitoring, resistance management, and enforcement) interact at key regulatory decision points to enable effective biosafety risk control.

2. To strengthen the project impact, please explicitly link monitoring and resistance detection to enforceable regulatory decisions, and prioritize the specific biosafety decision points where current capacity gaps most directly affect risk control. Please ensure the development of a time-bound regulatory roadmap, including coordination mechanisms among competent authorities, and targeted capacity-building measures.

3- Since submission, [GBFF guidelines on supporting actions by IPLCs](#) have been published. Please follow these guidelines carefully during PPG implementation, taking care to involve IPLC representatives in co-designing relevant components and including IPLC institutions identified by IPLCs themselves. The CEO endorsement request is expected to provide evidence that the reported dollar amount to support actions by IPLCs for biodiversity was calculated according to the guidelines.

4- Since submission, the GBFF Council adopted a [new results framework](#) for the GBFF. Please note this project will be requested to transition to this new results framework at its next best occasion, either the CEO endorsement request if submitted after July 1, 2026, or the first PIR. Please note that detailed guidelines for the new results framework will be release before July. New requirements include the provision of polygon data for the location of project interventions at CEO endorsement stage. In addition, projects' results frameworks are:

-encouraged to draw extensively in the headline, binary, component or complementary indicators of the [KMGBF monitoring framework](#) to better measure their contributions to the KMGBF goals and targets.

- requested, whenever feasible and relevant, to include indicators of biodiversity outcomes to complement and underpin the GBFF indicators

2/3/2026

Thank you. For this project to be further considered in the selection round, please address the comments included in this review sheet and resubmit as soon as possible.

2/19/2026

Thank you for this submission. For this project to be further considered in the selection round, please address the comments included in this review sheet and resubmit as soon as possible.

Agency's Comments

2/20/2026

Thank you for the review sheet. The comment has been addressed.

Review Dates

**First Review**

**Additional Review (as necessary)**

**Additional Review (as necessary)**

**Additional Review (as necessary)**

**Additional Review (as necessary)**

**PPG Request Review**

**2/19/2026**

**Agency Response**