

# Development of the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama

**Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation**

## **Basic project information**

**GEF ID**

10023

**Countries**

Panama

**Project Name**

Development of the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

5/14/2019

**Review completed by PM**

8/19/2019

**Program Manager**

Milena Vasquez

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

MSP

**PIF**

**CEO Endorsement**

**Project Design and Financing**

**1. If there are any changes from that presented in the PIF, have justifications been provided?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Changes are minor and justifications have been provided.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**2. Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, the project structure is appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**3. Is the financing adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objective?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, the financing is adequate.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**4. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk response measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, the project takes into account potential major risks.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**5. Is co-financing confirmed and evidence provided?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Yes, in-kind co-financing of \$150,000 is listed from the Ministry of Environment and evidence provided.

**However, we require a translation to English. Please provide.**

**Response to Secretariat comments**

UNEP 14th May 2020:

Translation provided (see attached document).

**6. Are relevant tracking tools completed?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, the core indicator 11 has been filled out as well as the CBIT-relevant indicators.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**7. Only for Non-Grant Instrument: Has a reflow calendar been presented?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** N/A

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**8. Is the project coordinated with other related initiatives and national/regional plans in the country or in the region?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes, the project is coordinated in particular with a GCF project on adaptation planning and with other CBIT projects in the region.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**9. Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

### **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

Yes, there is a budgeted M&E plan.

5/18/2020: The below is noted.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

UNEP 14th May 2020:

The allocation of resources within the M&E Plan has been adjusted. Resources for the inception workshop have been decreased as these will be undertaken remotely (i.e. via teleconference) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has severely affected the possibility of travel. Moreover, it was necessary to increase the resources allocated to the Terminal Evaluation, as it had previously been under budgeted.

**10. Does the project have descriptions of a knowledge management plan?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** The project aims to institutionalize and store the guidelines and procedures for MRV activities. In addition, a key output is a capacity-building plan to ensure sustainability.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**Agency Responses**

**11. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments at the PIF stage from:**

**GEFSEC**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** N/A

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**STAP**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** N/A

**Response to Secretariat comments**

**GEF Council**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** N/A

## Response to Secretariat comments

### Convention Secretariat

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement N/A

## Response to Secretariat comments

### Recommendation

#### 12. Is CEO endorsement recommended?

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Not yet. We note that there is an inclusion of a letter by the Ministry of Environment requesting execution support from UNEP. However, this letter is signed by the Political Focal Point and it should be signed by the GEF OFP. Please resubmit with the appropriate signature. The request should provide a sound justification for the execution activities that the GEF Agency may perform.

Thank you for providing the revised letter signed by the OFP; however, we did not find the justification to be sufficient to request the GEF Agency to perform execution functions, which should only be done in exceptional cases as a last option (i.e. when no other option is available and/or viable).

Please consider using another executing entity to carry out these functions to support the government.

In addition, per comment above please provide a translated copy of the Co-financing letter. Also, please fill in Focal Area Outcomes in table A.

**5/18/2020: A separate executing agency, Wetlands International, has been chosen to support the Ministry of Environment with execution functions. This is cleared. A translation of the co-financing letter has been provided. Comment cleared. Finally, focal area outcomes have been properly filled out. Comment cleared.**

**P.M. recommends CEO endorsement.**

- - 1.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

UN Environment, 6 August, 2019:

A revised letter justifying the request of execution support to UN Environment and signed by the current GEF Operational Focal Point has been included in Annex M.

UNEP, 14th May, 2020:

Upon reception of the GEF secretariat’s comments, a discussion was held with the Panama Ministry of Environment on which potential organisations within the country could provide this support. "Fundacion Wetlands International", which is an international NGO with a local office in Panama, was identified as a suitable partner to provide this support. Both their technical and financial administrative capacity was assessed and found to be satisfactory.

Switching to the NGO required adjustments to the budget. These changes have been agreed and validated by the government focal points, as well as Wetlands International. The changes include incorporating independent audits in the PMC budget component. The CEO endorsement document has been updated to reflect the role of Wetlands International.

In addition, a translated copy of the Co-financing letter is available in Annex N of the PDF version of the Project Document. Also, Focal Area Outcomes in table A were filled.

**Review Dates**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement**

**Response to Secretariat comments**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement****Response to Secretariat comments**

<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		
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**CEO Recommendation****Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

This project aims to develop the national Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama (Panama Reports) to facilitate the collection, management and dissemination of climate-related data in a consultative and transparent manner. Panama ratified the Paris Agreement on September 12, 2016. In its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Panama prioritizes the energy and the agriculture, forestry, and other land use (AFOLU) sectors, as the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through targets for increased renewable energy and carbon absorption capacity.

The project is aligned with the CBIT programming priorities to support activities that strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities, to provide relevant tools, training, and assistance for meeting the provisions stipulated in Article 13, and to assist in improving transparency over time. Panama's proposed framework will include mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and consists of the following main components: a GHG inventory management system; a mitigation actions registry; a monitoring and evaluation system for adaptation; and a national emissions registry. The emissions registry will be financed by the Carbon Pricing Project of the Regional Collaboration Center of the UNFCCC. The other elements will be addressed by this CBIT project, focusing on the AFOLU and energy sectors under mitigation, as well as on adaptation impacts on cities, coasts and human health under adaptation.

The project aims to achieve the following outputs:

1. Institutional arrangements for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), dissemination, and sustainability over time of sectoral climate-data are established;
2. National tools to ensure consistency and standardization in the monitoring and reporting of climate data are disseminated;
3. Public engagement mechanism for enhanced transparency framework is designed and implemented;
4. National Platform for Climate Transparency is established;
5. Training for data compilers, suppliers and platform users is provided.

This CBIT project will result in the design and development of a web platform and accompanying arrangements, processes and guidelines, which will be institutionalized within the existing national system for environmental data ensuring its sustainability. Through a public engagement mechanism, including with academia, research institutions, indigenous peoples, and the private sector, the project will strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of the framework. The project will explore the role of sub-national governments and institutions in the transparency framework, through arrangements with the Municipality of Panama City. The project will also carry out bottom-up enhancement of activity data in the transport and agriculture sectors, specifically.

Co-financing of \$150,000 is provided by the national government in-kind.