



# Caribbean BluEFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10782

**Countries**

Regional (Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines)

**Project Name**

Caribbean BluEFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project)

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

9/29/2022

**Review completed by PM**

11/12/2022

**Program Manager**

Taylor Henshaw

**Focal Area**

International Waters

**Project Type**

FSP

## PIF

### CEO Endorsement

#### Part I ? Project Information

##### Focal area elements

**1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

(1) Please adjust Agency Project Document implementation dates to match portal implementation dates

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

Agency Response

**Agency Response - 8 Dec 2022**

1. The implementation/execution dates in the prodoc are matching the dates on the portal. A new prodoc was uploaded in the roadmap.

#### Project description summary

**2. 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

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please number project components in Table B.

(2) The GEF financing and co-financing contributions to PMC are not proportional. Please revise accordingly.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

#### Agency Response

##### Agency Response - 8 Dec 2022

1. Component numbers have been added in Table B and a revised CEO document uploaded in the roadmap.
2. GEF/CF contributions are now proportional across the board incl for PMC. A revised CEO document is also uploaded in the roadmap.

**3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

#### Agency Response

##### Co-financing

**4. 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

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please note why the recipient country governments are not co-financiers of this project.

(2) Please spell out all acronyms in Table C

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

## Agency Response

### **Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. The co-financing confirmations at CEO endorsement are an identical match to the PIF approved pledges. Countries' contributions are indirectly embedded in the CBF Co-Financing which covers the CBF infrastructure within each country. Recipient country governments are direct partners with the CBF, and the CBF Partner National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs) are providing co-financing at the regional level. The CBF through the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture has received regional funding for their Programs.
2. Acronyms were spelled out in table C and a revised CEO document is uploaded in the road map.

### **GEF Resource Availability**

**5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 10th of November 2022  
(thenshaw): Yes

### Agency Response **Project Preparation Grant**

**6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please include in budget notes below Annex C (i) a breakdown of the Terranomics contract to design the project and (ii) elaborate on what CBF staff to support PPG coordination is.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

## Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Breakdown of Terranomics' contract and CBF's support were added in Annex C and a revised CEO document is uploaded in the road map.

## Core indicators

**7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) In the field below the core indicators table please explain the calculations/methodologies used to determine each target. Only then can the reviewer properly assess the core indicator targets.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

## Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Additional explanation calculations/methodologies used to determine each core indicators targets were added, and a revised CEO document is uploaded in the road map.

## Part II ? Project Justification

**1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

## Agency Response

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please include the specific core indicator targets in the elaboration of global environmental benefits

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Specific core indicator targets were added in the elaboration of global environmental benefits and a revised CEO document is uploaded in the road map.

**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**Project Map and Coordinates**

**Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency Response

**Child Project**

**If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

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

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Table 4 is outside the portal margins. Please reformat accordingly.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Table 4 margins were adjusted although it shows within margins on our side.

**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

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes, but please include the following:

(1) Gender perspectives are specified in the alternative scenario section. Please consolidate into the portal section on gender the component gender approaches (paragraphs 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45 in Appendix 9) and a summary table of gender activities.

(2) Please reference and describe in this section of the portal the gender intersectionality in-depth analysis that will take place in Y1.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

## Agency Response

### **Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. The portal gender section has been adjusted to add more information to the current summary of the gender approach and an activity table has been added. A revised CEO ER was uploaded in the roadmap section.
2. The gender intersectionality in-depth analysis that will take place in Y1 has been further described in the gender section of the portal, and the revised CEO ER.

## Private Sector Engagement

**If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes, private sector engagement is a critical element of Component 2.

## Agency Response

### **Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly,

(1) Please include a climate change risk and mitigation action in the portal risk matrix.

Reviewer note: Covid-19 risk and opportunity analysis present in portal

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

## Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Climate Risk and mitigation elements are integral part of the UNEP SRIF ? see section 2 SS2 (see appendix 8 to the Prodoc). It is also presented in Table 9 section 3.5 of the Prodoc and Table 9 Section 5 of the CEO ER.

## Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly,

(1) Please elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

## Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Section 2 of the CEO ER Table 4 provides an extensive overview in table form (21 pages long) of all the coordination arrangements with GEF and non GEF projects in the region. This will be further operationalised during project inception. Please also refer to Appendix 10 with the stakeholder engagement plan which provides an indication of the ?HOW?.

## Consistency with National Priorities

**Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes.

Agency Response  
**Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly

(1) Please paste the costed KM plan (Appendix 15) in this section.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. The KM plan App 15 has been pasted in the portal, and in the CEO ER section 8.

**Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)**

**Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes. A SRIF is present in the portal

Agency Response  
**Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes, but please address the following:

(1) Regarding the line for Participation of 10 people in inception meeting: The unit cost is 1,500 x 10 people = \$15,000. However, only \$3,750 is included in the cost by year breakdown. Please address accordingly.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

## Agency Response

### **Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Appendix 5 Table 4, CEO ER Table 12 Section 9, ProDoc Table 12 Section 6 have been amended accordingly and reuploaded in the roadmap. Relevant adjustments were made in the M&E Section in the Portal.

## Benefits

**Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

## Agency Response

### **Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) Please remove the M&E column from the budget table (Annex E), as M&E is Component 5.

(2) In the Annex E Budget Table, the Regional Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor is charged to both the project components and PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. The co-financing allocated to PMC is 3.0 million, and 32.6 million of co-financing is represented in grants. Please review and considering using co-financing to cover this position accordingly.

(3) Appendix 7 is missing in the portal. Please upload into the consolidated appendix document.

(4) In the Annex E Budget Table, the M&E Coordinator position is mapped to Component 3. Please explain why the M&E Coordinator position is not instead mapped to the Component 5 on M&E

(5) In the Annex E Budget Table there are a few lines under Non-expendable equipment and sundry that are cut off. Please wrap the text for these lines so the reviewer can understand what these charges are.

(6) In the Annex E Budget Table, Audit should be charged under PMC, not M&E

(7) Please explain the different roles for the following finance specialists/officers and justify their charge to project components vs. PMC

			ALLOCATION PER COMPONENT				
UNEP BUDGET LINE/OBJECT OF EXPENDITURE			Total	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4
			US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
<b>10</b>	<b>UMOJA</b>	<b>PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT</b>					
	<b>CODES</b>	<b>1100 Project Personnel</b>					
	1161	1101 Regional Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor	162,800.00	38,400.00	15,600.00	32,000.00	0.00
		1102 CBF CEO	26,750.00	6,750.00	17,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
		1103 CBF Conservation Finance Program Manager	38,800.00	12,000.00	22,800.00	4,000.00	0.00
		1199 Sub-Total	228,350.00	57,150.00	55,900.00	38,500.00	0.00
		<b>1200 Consultants w/m</b>					
	1161	1201 Senior Conservation Finance Specialist	259,250.00	204,000.00	0.00	0.00	55,250.00
		1202 Conservation Finance Specialist	330,000.00	132,000.00	0.00	0.00	198,000.00
		1203 Gender Specialist	45,050.00	19,550.00	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00
		1204 Business consultancy	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
		1205 Knowledge Management and Technology consultancy	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	0.00
		1206 Senior Blue Economy specialist	170,000.00	0.00	0.00	170,000.00	0.00
		1207 Blue Economy specialist	44,000.00	0.00	0.00	44,000.00	0.00
		1208 M&E specialist	102,000.00	0.00	0.00	102,000.00	0.00
		1209 Finance specialist	51,000.00	0.00	0.00	51,000.00	0.00
		1210 Senior Knowledge Management Specialist	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00
		1299 Sub-Total	1,319,300.00	355,550.00	108,500.00	517,000.00	329,750.00
		<b>1300 Administrative Support</b>					
	1161	1301 Financial Officer	76,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		1302 Admin Assistant	57,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		1399 Sub-Total	134,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Here in the review sheet please show what the technical and management duties are of the Regional Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor. Please include corresponding budget per duty.

(3) Addressed.

(4) Addressed.

(5) Addressed.

(6) Addressed.

(7) Addressed.

14th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(2) Addressed.

## Agency Response

### Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022

1. Given UNEP's budget template, the M&E column cannot be removed however Cpt 5 was relabelled.
2. The post reflected in the project budget are strictly project posts and will not be funded through co-financing as other co-financiers do not accept to pay for Project staff costs of a GEF project. Please also note the detailed breakdown of functions per component and PMC, for the ToR for Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor in App 6.
3. Appendix 7 are actually the co-financing letters which were individually pasted in Table C. They are now also all combined in one single PDF file and uploaded in the roadmap.
4. This is the M&E specialist for the Blue Economy Hub (project component 3) and not for the project.
5. The Non-expendable equipment and sundry text was 'wrapped' as per the request. Note that Appendix 01 in the road map provides a Excel version of the portal picture for ease of reading.
6. Again, this is the Audit of the Fund and not the project. Since the aim of the Blue Economy efforts is to produce additional funding for the Architecture (the CBF and NCTFs), regular review and evaluation on the funds already or potentially generated from the project's finance mechanisms would need to be independently verified - as part of an evaluation process. Project audit is covered by the EA.
7. This project is looking at financing instruments, hence the finance staff charged to the components are meant to support the financial activities of the project *per se* whereas the finance officer under PMC is one to handle project management. Please see below the roles:

1.

1103: CBF Conservation Finance Project Manager	Project management, coordination, and reporting. See app 6 for detailed ToR.
1201 (consultant): Senior Conservation Finance Specialist	Project programmatic support - Lead on innovative blue economy finance mechanisms for the project. Responsible for day-to-day management of the project's efforts in Finance Mechanisms. Support to region-wide and national level mechanism designs.
1202 (consultant): Conservation Finance Specialist	Project programmatic on-the-ground support to national and community mechanism designs and ideas. Support to Senior specialist especially in national coordination for regional initiatives. Strong understanding of conservation needs and opportunities.

1209 (consultant): Finance specialist	Project programmatic support - Expert in regional and national financial systems and opportunities ? to work and create liaisons with financial sector partners.
1301 (PCU): Financial Officer	Project administrative support - Monitor project activities, budgets and financial expenditures and prepare budget revisions and working budgets

**Agency Response- 14 Dec 2022**

The Project will be managed by a Regional Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor (RPC&TA). To optimize the use of project resources while providing the right skills set to the project, the responsibilities of the Regional Project Coordinator and Technical Advisor are a mix of technical and managerial ones consolidated into one position.

**52% (\$86,000) charged to Technical Components**

**48% (\$76,800) charged to PMC**

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Component 3</b>	<b>PMC</b>
<b>\$38,400</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>\$76,800</b>

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	PMC
\$38,400	\$15,600	\$32,000	\$76,800
<p>? Defines ToRs for component 1 (USD 2,054,200) personnel, consultants and subgrantees</p> <p>? Provides overall technical guidance to component 1 project personnel and technical consultants; ensuring oversight and quality control of all technical activities undertaken or contracted under the component</p> <p>? Serves as a technical coordinator/central focal point on technical co-ordination matters of component 1 .</p>	<p>? Defines ToRs for component 2 (USD 652,400) personnel, consultants and subgrantees</p> <p>? Provides overall technical guidance to component 2 project personnel and technical consultants; ensuring oversight and quality control of all technical activities undertaken or contracted under the component</p> <p>? Leads the coordination, the design and development of the facilitated dialogues and the the engagement with governments and other governance/coordination mechanisms in targeted economic sectors</p> <p>? Serves as a technical coordinator/central focal point on technical co-ordination matters of component 2</p>	<p>? Defines ToRs for component 3 (USD 1,940,450) personnel, consultants and subgrantees</p> <p>? Provides overall technical guidance to component 3 project personnel and technical consultants; ensuring oversight and quality control of all technical activities undertaken or contracted under the component</p> <p>? Coordinates the process of design, development and populating of the Caribbean Blue Economy Hub</p> <p>? Serves as a technical coordinator/central focal point on technical co-ordination matters of component 3</p>	<p>? Preparation of project workplans and operational and financial planning processes</p> <p>? Preparation of progress reports</p> <p>? Assist in procurement and hiring processes</p> <p>? Prepare agendas and arrange field visits, appointments, and meetings both internal and external related to the project activities and write minutes from the meetings</p> <p>? Logistical organization of meetings, training and workshops and advertise national and international procurement related to the project</p> <p>? Supervising the provision and acquisition of all necessary supplies and services including maintenance contracts, office supplies and communications; arranging for customs clearance if required. She/he shall be</p>

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	PMC
\$38,400	\$15,600	\$32,000	\$76,800
			<p>responsible for the proper running and upkeep of the project hardware including the computers, copiers, etc. and maintain records over project equipment inventory</p> <p>? Monitor project activities, budgets and financial expenditures and prepare budget revisions and working budgets</p> <p>? Advise all project counterparts on applicable administrative procedures and ensure their proper implementation</p> <p>? Undertake any other activity that may be necessary for the effective management of the project.</p> <p>? Be prepared to make national or international travels according to the project needs</p>

**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) Annex A is outside the portal margins. Please reformat accordingly.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

#### Agency Response

##### **Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. While Annex A has been adjusted, this is the best one can do given the portal IT limitations.

#### **GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request None

#### Agency Response

##### **Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No

(1) Please address Council comments in a matrix format. Please ensure each comment is directly responded to in the matrix rather than only pointing the reviewer to the portal section where the comment is addressed.

*Comment by Liesl Karen Inglis, Senior Advisor, Department for Green Diplomacy and Climate (GDK), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Council, Denmark made on 7/8/2021* □

##### **Comment:**

##### ? Norway/Denmark Comments

? Component 3 will develop a regional Blue Business Hub. This Hub is designed to collect, coordinate, promote and harness Blue Economy information from Component 4 (increasing knowledge of blue economy business opportunities, valuation and decision tools and sustainable finance mechanisms (FMs) used by relevant stakeholders) and other efforts in the wider Caribbean (e.g., PROCARIBE+) that support the development of regional business arrangements that can create Blue Business and Economy activities, including FMs, at all levels.

o This sounds very similar to what the OECD Blue Recovery Hubs are trying to achieve. And while this project is not directly focused on recovery from COVID, it would be important

for these two initiatives to collaborate, especially considering that St. Lucia is a common country of the two projects.

? The World Bank has an upcoming project in the Eastern Caribbean ([Unleashing the Blue Economy for Economic Recovery and Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean](#)), which aims to enhance tourism, fisheries and aquaculture, and waste management. These efforts are expected to boost economic recovery, help create jobs, and reduce marine pollution. While still in the preparatory stage, this would be an important project to collaborate with. Any contact with this WB team?

? Although tourism seems to be the main target for this project (based on the list of stakeholders), there is very little mention of the efforts to 'build back better/bluer/greener?'. COVID has had a devastating impact on this sector, but has also provided an opportunity to take a pause and reassess the true profitability of unsustainable tourism practices, and plan for rebuilding it better. There is mention of building back, but not specified building back differently and more sustainable. It would be beneficial to see how the project intends to ensure that it is not 'building back' to business as usual.

***Comment by Kordula Mehlhart, GEF Council Member, Head of Division on Climate Finance, BMZ, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Council, Germany made on 7/4/2021*** □

**Comment:**

? ***Germany Comments***

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

? The PIF puts emphasis on environmental and economic sustainability but lacks an equal consideration of social and justice matters when it comes to promoting a sustainable blue economy. Germany would like to request the consideration and integration of social dimensions to promote an equitable and sustainable Blue Economy ('Blue Commons' or 'Blue Justice'). For the sake of equity, Germany suggests integrating consultations with local coastal communities and marginalized population groups or their civil society representatives into the project planning phase. The proposal would benefit from clearly stating how traditional ocean-based livelihoods will benefit from the project. Due to the overall diversity of actors and interests in the view of a regional Blue Economy, Germany considers the establishment and fostering of alliances to strengthen connections between relevant blue economy sectors.

***Comment by Stéphanie Bouziges-Eschmann, Secretary general, Secrétariat du Fonds Français pour l'environnement mondial, Agence Française de Développement, Council, France made on 7/14/2021*** □

**Comment:**

? **France Comments**

? The request submitted to GEF by the CBF is for funding of USD 6 million, backed by an institutional support project over 4 years, carried out by UNEP (which in the process receives USD 570,000).

? It is about developing blue economy initiatives in 5 countries and their marine protected areas (Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent) totaling 2.3 Mha in area, and involving 233,000 people (including 50 % of women), mainly fishermen and tourism operators.

? Among the co-financing, the CRAB project (AFD and FFEM), KFW and CBF equity.

o The project is very complementary to the CRAB project, which is oriented towards finance and coral restoration.

o It plans to set up a "learning community" (component 3) and a "regional competence hub".

o The cover note used the graphic produced by Biotope, which was in turn taken from the Project Identification Note (NIP) submitted to the FFEM.

o The consideration of gender is very preliminary and not very convincing.

o The private sector (hotels) is deemed to be heavily engaged and the possibilities for replication are considered important. However, while we can hope for a certain rebound in tourism over the project's implementation period, it is not sure that it will be sufficient to meet the expectations set in the project. For fishermen, the rebound in tourism is not without importance, in terms of opportunities.

***Comment by Tom Bui, Director, Environment, Global Issues and Development Branch (MFM), Global Affairs Canada, Council, Canada made on 7/14/2021*** □

**Comment:**

? **Canada Comments**

? This project makes sense from a biodiversity perspective with the focus on improving management for conservation but caution is needed with areas that are to jointly manage for conservation as well as sustainable use, since Protected Areas and OECMs, as per the CBD,

are meant to always deliver positive biodiversity outcomes. How this will be done should be made clear in the proposal. The Blue Economy work that this project focuses on is very focused on increasing resource use from the ocean, so caution is needed to demonstrate that this is sustainable and biodiversity positive.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) No, Council comments are not fully addressed. In the response matrix, please elaborate on: (a) any contact with the WB project team for the Unleashing the Blue Economy Recovery and Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean; (b) how the project will build back differently and more sustainably and ensure that it is not building back to business as usual; (c) Canada's point regarding caution needed with areas that are to jointly manage for conservation as well as sustainable use.

14th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

#### Agency Response

##### **Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. Council comments are now addressed in a matrix see Annex B of CEO ER.

##### **Agency Response- 14 Dec 2022**

1. Adjustments were made to council comments and are now addressed in the response matrix (Annex B of CEO ER).

#### STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 10th of November 2022  
(thenshaw): Yes

#### Agency Response

##### **Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request No comments received

#### Agency Response

##### **Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request No comments received

Agency Response  
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request No comments received

Agency Response  
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please include budget notes below Annex C to (i) provide a breakdown of the Terranomics contract to design the project and (ii) elaborate on what CBF staff to support PPG coordination is.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed

Agency Response

**Agency Response- 8 Dec 2022**

1. As stated above Annex C has been adjusted accordingly.

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes.

Agency Response

**Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

**Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

17th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address above comments and resubmit. Thank you.

13th of December 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address above comments and resubmit. Thank you.

14th of December 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>		<b>12/8/2022</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		<b>12/14/2022</b>

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat comments**

<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**