

Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11548
Countries
Togo
Project Name
Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo
Agencies
UNDP
Date received by PM
12/19/2025
Review completed by PM

Program Manager
Jason Spensley
Focal Area
Multi Focal Area
Project Type
FSP

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared

Feb 2, 2026:

No. The project is seeking approximately \$4 million from LDCF for adaptation impact, but indicates 1 for the adaptation Rio Marker. This is curious. Please correct this by either substantively refocusing the project less on adaptation, significantly reducing the order of magnitude budget for adaptation, or revising the Rio Marker accurately higher as relevant.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

Thank you for this comment, The Rio Marker for Climate Change Adaptation has been correctly marked as (2), Principal Objective.

2. Project Summary.

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

3. Project Description Overview

a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?

b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?

- d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared

Feb 2, 2026:

a) We note several changes in the components, particularly at the output level. Please briefly explain here the reasoning of why each change was made.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

Please see Output-level wording changes (<i>italicized</i>) and associated explanations, as follows:		
PIF Output	CEO Output	Explanation of change
Output 1.1: Policy and legal frameworks enhanced/strengthened to support multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, and gender-responsive integrated landscape management (ILM) and planning, with climate risks and adaptation needs integrated.	Output 1.1: <i>Strengthened multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, and gender-responsive integrated landscape management (ILM) and planning, with climate risks and adaptation needs integrated, through (i) enhanced gender-responsive and inclusive landscape-level multi-stakeholder platforms for data sharing, planning, capacity and consensus building, and knowledge dissemination, and (ii) strengthened policy and legal frameworks.</i>	PIF outputs 1.1 and 1.2 were merged based on the recognition that the multi-stakeholder platforms (Output 1.2 in the PIF) being established by the project would provide the institutional space where cross-sectoral evidence, local priorities, and stakeholder perspectives are brought together to inform policy dialogue and legal alignment (Output 1.1 in the PIF). By anchoring policy and regulatory strengthening within these platforms, the project ensures that reforms will be grounded in practical implementation realities, reflecting adaptation and restoration needs, and will be co-owned by responsible institutions and communities. This integration will increase policy relevance, legitimacy, and the likelihood of sustained adoption and enforcement.
Output 1.2: Strengthened gender-responsive and inclusive landscape-level multi-stakeholder platforms for data sharing, planning, capacity and consensus building, and knowledge dissemination.		As a result of this consolidation, subsequent Outputs under Component 1 have been renumbered accordingly.

Output 2.1: Strengthened local and regional supply chain(s) to support climate-resilient ecosystem restoration, including native tree seedling production and distribution, and associated capacities.	Output 2.1: Strengthened local and regional supply chain(s) supporting climate-resilient ecosystem restoration, including native tree seedling production and distribution, and associated capacities, <i>with a strategy for further diffusion linked to strengthened value chains and sustainable practices (Output 3.3) and overall uptake of best practices (Output 4.2).</i>	The italicized text was added in order to connect the supply chain strengthening with the project's diffusion and scaling strategy. By explicitly linking seedling production and distribution to value chains (Output 3.3) and uptake mechanisms (Output 4.2), the project strengthens incentives for continuity, replication, and longer-term sustainability beyond the initial restoration sites and project timeframe.
Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies.	Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies <i>through participatory learning and extension.</i>	Highlighted phrase added clarifying how the output will be achieved
Output 3.1: Enhanced gender disaggregated data and modeling of projected climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs in the target project area in Togo's Central Region, integrating enhanced analytical tools and metrics, including climate projections, impact modelling (ref. Output 1.5)	Output 3.1: Enhanced <i>sex disaggregated</i> data and modeling of projected climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs in the target project area in Togo's Central Region, integrating enhanced analytical tools and metrics, including climate projections, impact modelling (ref. Output 1.4).	Wording change from 'gender disaggregated' to 'sex-disaggregated'. Following a correction, the reference to Output 1.5 (here renumbered 1.4, as noted above) has been re-inserted
Output 3.4: Strategy developed and implemented to increase investment in adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient technologies and practices, including by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (also supporting Component 2).	Output 3.4: Strategy developed and implemented to increase investment in adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient technologies and practices, including by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (also supporting Component 2).	Minor wording change in previous submission has been re-instated in the present submission. Thus, no change from PIF.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

- Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
- Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
- If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared

Feb 2, 2026:

a) Noting the comment made at the PIF approval stage that needs to be addressed during project preparation, as well as similar comments from Council Members, please outline here (and add further text in the CER document as needed) as to (i) the complementarity of this project vis-à-vis the similar extensive other donor funded projects in the country, and (ii) how this project will achieve sustainability of project outcomes while other projects have not been as successful.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

a) Thank you for this request for further clarification, which is outlined below.

(i) As noted in the reply to the Council comment from Germany (see Annex H), the project team has gone to great lengths to avoid duplication of previous and ongoing projects. The submission documents have been revised to better reflect this fact, as follows (see Prodoc p. 18; CEO ER, p.18): *The project has been designed to complement and leverage ongoing investments by Germany, France, AfDB, and the World Bank, rather than duplicate them. Baseline programs already support irrigation infrastructure, mechanization, and skills development in the Central Region. The project therefore focuses on closing gaps in climate risk integration, ecosystem restoration, agroecological practices, and value chain resilience, which are not fully addressed by infrastructure-heavy initiatives. Through the multi-stakeholder platforms and coordination mechanisms supported under Component 1 (including engagement with existing regional committees and development partners), the project will align planning, share data, and synchronize interventions, ensuring strategic complementarity, targeted co-financing opportunities, and operational synergies with ongoing programs.*

(ii) The paragraph of the Prodoc on sustainability (see CEO ER p.19; Prodoc, p. 43) has been updated in response to this comment. Please see the added text below.

Unlike many previous projects that focused on isolated sites or short-term pilots, this project embeds restoration, SLM and regenerative agriculture within integrated landscape-level planning processes that are formally linked to regional and commune development plans and policy frameworks. Sustainability will be further strengthened through the use of structured learning platforms (FFS and RFS), which combine field-level demonstrations with peer-to-peer learning and extension system engagement, increasing the likelihood of continued uptake beyond the project period. In contrast to earlier interventions, the project explicitly links capacity building and demonstration to strengthened value chains and MSME development, helping to generate sustained economic incentives for maintaining nature-positive practices.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and

critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?

e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?

f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?

g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?

h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?

i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?

j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?

l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared. We note that the Annex with responses to Stakeholder comments is Annex I, rather than Annex H as indicated below in the Agency response.

Feb 2, 2026:

Please note the comments in the Stakeholder Comments section from United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, and CBD Secretariat. Please ensure all the stakeholder comments are fully addressed, and indicate where and how each comment is addressed (in the Annex I: Responses to project reviews, or otherwise.) As needed based on the comments, please adjust the CER document accordingly.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

A matrix showing responses to Council Member and Convention Secretariat comments has been added to Annex H. While these comments were for the most part addressed in the initial submission, minor changes were made in the documents in order to better to reflect these comments, and are highlighted in the text (see specific responses below for locations).

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?

b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?

c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed

projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP colleagues.

February 9, 2026:

For the avoidance of doubt, please answer 'No' to the question 'Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?'

Agency Response

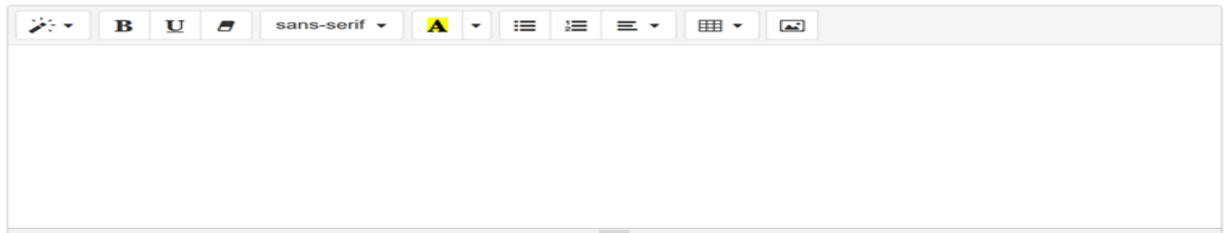
UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

Thank you for this comment. The 'No' box is ticked in CEO ER. However, it should be noted that the Portal does not provide an option to manually select 'No' for this field.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

☐ Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

A screenshot of a rich text editor interface. The top part shows a toolbar with various icons for text formatting (bold, italic, underline, strikethrough), font color, background color, text alignment, list creation, and table insertion. Below the toolbar is a large, empty text area for input.

5.3 Core indicators

a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared

February 9, 2026:

Under CI.1.2, please provide the METT score for the listed protected areas.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

A table has been added to the Core Indicators section in the CEO ER (p.40) and in the Prodoc (p. 190), showing each protected area, its area in ha., and the corresponding baseline METT scores. The METT scores are also provided in the Core Indicators Worksheet.

5.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 2, 2026:

Please note the comments from Council Members regarding risks, particularly this comment from the United Kingdom: "I also understood that Togo is in a transition from a presidential to a parliamentary regime. Maybe this should be added in the risk register, with mitigation action for continued engagement with the government on improving the policy land management framework."

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

By the time of this project resubmission (February 2026), Togo's political system is no longer considered to be in transition. The transition has been a relatively smooth one and thus this has not been added to the risk register at the country office level.

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 2, 2026:

Please note this comment from the CBD Secretariat: "Regarding C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES Very much appreciate the mapping with the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). If possible, please kindly regroup in terms of primary links and secondary links link with the KM-GBF targets (ii) Secondary link with the KM-GBF targets."

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

The alignment with KM-GBF targets is now presented in the form of a table with two parts, showing primary and secondary links, in the CEO ER (p. 43-44). Information in the Project Summary (CEO ER, p.2) has been updated accordingly.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 9, 2026:

Please clarify whether Indigenous Peoples are present in the project areas. We note the ESMF indicates *?indigenous people (often Tem, Tchamba)?* in page 6-7, and some academic journals mentioned about indigenous Peoples in Central region of Togo, namely Tchaoudjo, Sotouboua, Tchamba, Blitta and M? (*Ethnotaxonomy and Ethnobotanical Studies of Honey and Resinous Plants in the Tchamba Prefecture in Togo*, available [here](#); *Sacred Slaves: Tchamba Vodun in Southern Togo*, available [here](#), and *Traditional Healers of Tchaoudjo District: Animal Care Practices*, available [here](#)).

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

The project area includes multiple ethnic groups coexisting in a context of conflicts over land and natural resources. Although some of these groups (Tchamba and Peuhl) might meet the criteria for Standard 6, singling out one ethnic group (over others) risks further exacerbating existing conflicts.

The updated section on the Status and presence of Indigenous Peoples in the project area and the applicability of Standard 6 (section 3.3 of the ESMF, which is Annex 9 of the Prodoc):

- ? Analyses the objective and guidance in UNDP Standard 6
- ? Provides additional context on Indigenous Peoples in Africa based on guidance developed by the African Development Bank (itself drawing on research and analysis by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights)
- ? Provides an overview of the ethnic composition of the project area of influence
- ? Discusses the characteristics of the identified ethnic groups and the extent to which they could/should be identified as 'Indigenous Peoples' based on UNDP and AfDB guidance
- ? Concludes that the emphasis ought to be on inclusiveness and consideration of vulnerability and that singling out a specific group and granting them a higher level of engagement and resources risks exacerbating land-use conflicts

The mitigation approach proposed in the ESMF, has been slightly modified to include the following:

- ? Land-use, conflict and stakeholder analysis
- ? Simplified process framework replaced by a Social Inclusion and Planning Framework (a mix of an IPP and a Process Framework) presented in section 4.4 page 42 and Annex 2
- ? Update of the SEP based on the findings (with an emphasis on inclusion of vulnerable stakeholders)
- ? Implementation of the updated SEP and project activities geared towards accommodating competing land uses and conflict management

Please also note additional text in ProDoc (page 39).

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 9, 2026:

It is well noted that the annexed SEP incorporates details on consultation in project development and roles of different stakeholders related to project components and activities. However, please specify which community-based groups and organizations, civil society organization and NGOs that will be engaged and elaborate further on plans to engage and consult these in project implementation.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

Given the logistical and time constraints of the PPG field mission, local consultations did not explicitly single out CBOs or CSO, though members of CBOs were engaged as part of the community consultations. However, the scoped ESIA includes an emphasis on identifying and analyzing key actors, mechanisms and approaches to mitigating conflicts between different land users. This includes Evaluating the capacities of local organizations and assessing local participatory management of threats and opportunities (ESMF page 36).

At implementation, the SEP will be updated based on further consultations, including CSO and NGO, and on the baseline assessments as part of Activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.4.

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 2, 2026:

We note that UNDP attached the Social and Environmental Screening Template, ESMF and stakeholder engagement plan. An overall ESS risk is classified as High/substantial. We appreciate the project highlights potential social impacts on ethnic minority groups (exclusion and access to natural resources) are highlighted in the project documents.

i. Please clarify whether Indigenous Peoples are present in the project areas since the ESMF said "indigenous people (often Tem, Tchamba)" in page 6-7 and some academic journals mentioned about indigenous Peoples in Central region of Togo, namely Tchaoudjo, Sotouboua, Tchamba, Blitta and M? (Ethnotaxonomy and Ethnobotanical Studies of Honey and Resinous Plants in the Tchamba Prefecture in Togo, available here; Sacred Slaves: Tchamba Vodun in Southern Togo, available here, and Traditional Healers of Tchaoudjo District: Animal Care Practices, available here).

ii. Please clarify how ethnic minority groups/Indigenous Peoples and agro- silvo-pastoralists were consulted during the PPG and how the results of the consultations were integrated into the project.

iii. Please ensure recognizing ethnic minority groups, Indigenous Peoples and agro- silvo-pastoralists as key partners of the project.

iv. Please clarify how the project respect ethnic minority groups and agro- silvo-pastoralists? governance and traditional and local knowledge, and integrate capacity building in the project, particularly for Component 1, 2, and 3.

v. Please consider incorporating monitoring indicators related to socioeconomic benefits for vulnerable populations including ethnic minority groups, indigenous peoples and agro-silvo-pastoralists.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

We are pleased to clarify as follows:

- i. See responses to question 7.1 above.
- ii. See response to question 7.3 above
- iii. The strategy adopted in the ESMF is to focus on analyzing the sources and dynamics of land-use conflicts, identifying user groups, including vulnerable stakeholders (as described in the response to question 7.1 and in the ESMF)
- iv. The assessments planned in the scoped ESIA, the update of the SEP and implementation of the Social Inclusion and Planning Framework (applying FPIC to affected people prior to restrictions regardless of ethnicity) will ensure that the project respects ethnic minority groups, vulnerable groups, including their own forms of governance. These approaches will ensure that Activity 1.3.3 (implementation plans detailing the commune-level interventions under Components 2 and 3) and Activity 1.3.4 (site management plans for K?m?ni protected area and for 10 community forests to be selected) are designed and implemented in a participatory manner, that integrates traditional knowledge of local communities. Under Activity 1.2.5 a tailored capacity-building program will be designed, based on findings from the baseline and organizational capacity assessments, adapted to local needs.
- v. Indicator 12 (CEO ER, p.53) has been revised as follows (new text italicized):
?Number of direct beneficiaries, including vulnerable populations and disaggregated by gender, with enhanced income from value chains targeted by climate risk informed regenerative agriculture practices (supported by metrics developed in Output 1.6).?
Besides this indicator, the Social Inclusion and Planning Framework (see ESMF ? Annex 2), to be developed at implementation, will include indicators to follow-up on conflict and livelihood risks and to be defined in a participatory way with the various ethnic and resource-users? groups.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 9, 2026:

Annex I - Responses to project reviews do not include the responses to UK, Japan, Germany and CBD Secretariat in the stakeholders section. Please do so. Instead, after the table included in this

Annex in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal View, there is a long text repeating some of the project's sections. Please amend.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Annex H now includes tables showing responses to Council and CBD Secretariat comments.

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

February 2, 2026:

Yes, pending further comment if any from OP.

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

2 February 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestN/A

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

2 February 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

8.3 Source of Funds

Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:

Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 2, 2026:

Yes

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

Feb 9, 2026:

a. Please provide further information (e.g. breakdown or TORs) for the large firm contracts for (i) restoration and field interventions - \$1,426,532; and (ii) large scale FFs demonstration - \$470,965.

b. Please use the budget table in Annex 7 of the Guidelines 2025 (accessible [here](#)) - please include the subtotals.

c. The Institutional Arrangements section references to both a Project Manager and a Project Coordinator as the key role in the PMU (p. 31). There is a ?Project Team Leader? in the Budget Table but that role is not charged to PMC, and the detailed description in the Budget Table does not indicate a project management function. Please clarify how effective project management will be achieved (the procurement and finance/admin assistants are noted) and what project personnel will be tasked with overall project management and coordination. Please maintain consistent job titles throughout the CEO Endorsement documentation and the budget table.

d. Please recategorize the local consultant (audit) currently listed under ?Other Operating Costs.? Please include this role under Local Consultants section, or Contractual Services ? Individual (or Company), as appropriate.

e. Please clarify the two separate entries for Procurement Specialist at \$90,000 charged to PMC and the other \$30,000 charged to Component 4. The procurement function is a project management role and should be charged to PMC (see [Guidelines](#), p. 68). Please revise accordingly and indicate in the submission to where the \$30,000 for the second procurement specialist has been moved.

f. There are multiple instances under the Local Consultants section in which multiple personnel are included with the same title and remuneration. However, it is not clear why there is a need for multiple roles for each budget line, given that the amount of work for each role is relatively small. Please clarify in the review sheet and, if necessary, revise the Budget Table accordingly.

When resubmitted, we will review the budget table again and provide comments as needed.

Agency Response

UNDP Response, February 20, 2026

a. Framework ToRs and indicative budget breakdowns for each of the large firm contracts have been prepared and are included as new annexes in the Project Document (Annex 7).

b. The format of the budget table has now been updated in accordance with the Annex 7 template of the 2025 Guidelines. The required subtotals have been included as requested.

c. Thank you for this comment. The Project Coordinator was added to the PMC for 25 months of their 60-month project duration. The remaining 35 months has been placed in Component 1. Please see the TOR for this position, with clear distinction between management and technical tasks, in Annex 7 of the project document.

This distribution reflects the dual mandate: 42% of their time to managerial functions, including overall project coordination, work planning and monitoring, management of

personnel and contracts, financial oversight and reporting, risk monitoring, preparation of mandatory UNDP/GEF reports (including the PIR), and regular reporting to the Project Board.

The remaining 58% of their time to be allocated to technical responsibilities as a natural resource management specialist. This includes leading baseline assessments, guiding landscape-level planning, developing analytical tools, supporting sustainable land and forest management, organizing community awareness activities, and producing simplified technical guidance in local languages. He also identifies priority technical actions to be financed under Component 1.

d. The categorization applied for audit services is correct. However, the description of the associated expenses was inaccurate. This has now been corrected to clearly indicate that the activity will be undertaken by an audit firm (i.e., professional services) and not a consultancy. Please see below the categorization guidance used:

74100	Professional Services	Other Operating Costs
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e. The Procurement Specialist's position has been removed. The Ministry of Environment, Forest Resources, Coastal Protection, and Climate Change, the project's IP, confirmed that, as part of service rationalization, its procurement unit will fully support the project in procurement processes. As a result, a dedicated project-level Procurement Specialist is no longer required.

f. The multiplicity of national experts is partly due to the combined use of GEF/TF and LDCF funds, which results in certain budget lines appearing twice. In addition, because the project spans five prefectures, short missions require either one consultant per prefecture or two consultants covering multiple prefectures or landscapes (e.g., sacred forests) to avoid delays in deliverables.

Adjustments were therefore proposed for the following posts:

? **Forest management experts** (prefecture-level coverage and preparation of sacred forest manuals, now split into two lots due to the number of sites).

? **Regional development expert** (to support the design and operationalization of regional platforms).

? **Decentralization expert and natural resource management expert** (to ensure complementary expertise within technical working groups).

? **Development planning expert** (to carry out baseline studies, socioeconomic surveys, and site management plans).

These changes reflect the need for both geographical distribution of work and specialized expertise to ensure timely and high-quality delivery across the project's five prefectures.

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.

c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Feb 23, 2026:

Cleared, pending any further comment from OP.

Feb 2, 2026:

Several comments need to be addressed.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

First Review

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

Additional Review (as necessary)

CEO Approval Response to Secretariat comments

2/4/2026

2/9/2026

2/23/2026