

# Building and Strengthening Sierra Leone's National Capacity to Implement the Transparency Elements of the Paris Agreement

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10027

**Countries**

Sierra Leone

**Project Name**

Building and Strengthening Sierra Leone's National Capacity to Implement the Transparency Elements of the Paris Agreement

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

6/4/2019

**Review completed by PM**

**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**

Slight changes reflecting stakeholder consultation during PPG have been justified.

**Response to Secretariat comments**

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

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Overall, yes the project is very clearly articulated to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs. However, please address the following:

Under Outcome 1, Output 1.2 - Please clarify activities 1.2.2 and 1.2.3. Please note that the CBIT support is not meant to support the NDC update itself, but it can support the tracking of NDCs and clarifying NDC information. Please confirm if these activities will focus on the development of indicators and selection and preparation of necessary data to track and report progress towards Sierra Leone's NDC and adaptation actions. Please also clarify how this project will specifically coordinate with the eventual work of the upcoming National Adaptation Plan.

Under Outcome 2, Output 2.1 - Please clarify how training will be tailored to different sectors and stakeholders depending on their role in the transparency system and the expected number of people and scope of trainings.

Please clarify the scope of strengthening the existing regional climate networks (2.2.3) and the development of educational material for schools (2.2.4) and how it will support the objective of the project, in particular considering the limited resources. These activities seem to be outside of the aim of the project and better served by other sources.

In the design of the NDC platform, please consider utilizing simpler and proven technologies that can be used by more stakeholders for data uploading and downloading (for example Excel), and differ data management and processing from visualization technologies.

Under Activity 2.3.5, please clarify if this also relates to the production of annual GHG inventories.

11/18/2019: All comments above have been clarified.

### Response to Secretariat comments

UNEP, 21st October, 2019

- (i) Under Outcome 1, Output 1.2: The update of the NDC is de facto development of indicators for tracking and reporting on the implementation of the NDC. This is the first step in preparing Sierra Leone for meeting the post 2024 ETF requirements. Indicators are also fundamental for identifying the data that Sierra Leone needs to generate to report on NDC implementation. It is not possible to track the implementation of the current NDC as there are no targets or indicators. The indicators will hence guide the preparation of data generation and management. Indicators for adaptation will be developed through the work done under the upcoming NAP (p.21-22 & p.41-42).

- (ii) Under Outcome 2, Output 2.1: The specific content of the training packages will be developed in the initial phase of the project, as part of activity 2.1.1 (p. 25). The capacity-building programme will include intensive training of around 30-50 individuals depending on the pre-analysis to be done when developing the training packages. In addition to this 2.1.1 tailored training activity, other training activities such as 1.1.5, 2.2.3 and 2.3.4 justify the target of at least 140 persons trained through this CBIT project.
- (iii) Regarding the strengthening of existing regional climate networks (2.2.3) and the development of educational material for schools (2.2.4): The regional networks are important for the transparency system to support the inclusion of sub-national actors for data generation and collection. The regions and municipalities will be engaged in the transparency system through these networks (p.27). It is important to mention that the networks already exist and the project will focus narrowly on integrating data generation and collection into their terms of reference, thus promoting an efficient use of resources. Activity 2.2.4 has been merged with 2.2.3 and its focus is, through a regional network, to pilot a climate awareness programme for educational institutions and communities in one region. It will be coordinated by the Ministry of Education and the Climate Change Secretariat and implemented by the regional network in the selected region. Focusing on the impact of climate change and the necessity of generating and collecting data to measure impact at the community level it will create a better understanding of the challenges at such level, which again will inform the development of NDC targets and indicators. By narrowing the scope to one region and focusing on data generation to understand climate change impact at the community level, Sierra Leone will create access to data in particular related to climate change adaptation and improve its climate transparency in general (p.27).
- (iv) On the design of the NDC platform: Simple and proven technologies like excel will be assessed as part of the scoping in activity 2.3.1. As mentioned in the description of the activity, "IT solutions for establishing an online data platform differ a lot, and the local context and needs thereby need to be comprehensively analyzed to allow for the development of a system that will fit into the context and facilitate national reporting and climate analyses in Sierra Leone."(p.28)
- (v) Concerning Activity 2.3.5: The ultimate goal is to include annual GHG inventories but that is only possible when the necessary capacity has been developed and the transparency system is operational. During the first years, the data available will be applied and indication of progress provided, including on needs and gaps in the NDC implementation process. (p.29).

**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.

#### **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.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

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

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Evidence of co-financing from the EPA of \$200,000 has been provided.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

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

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

Core Indicator 11 has been filled out and CBIT indicators have been integrated into the project results framework. However, we found the results framework to be too high level without enough indicators to support the tracking of progress of the project. Agency may want to consider additional indicators.

11/18/2019: All comments above have been clarified.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

UNEP, 21st October, 2019

The indicators have been adjusted in Annex A (p.47) and now there is at least one indicator for each outcome.

#### **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**

The project states that as per April 2019 the country has not initiated its BUR, but the country is part of the UNEP umbrella program (6925) endorsed in June 2016 (3 years ago) and per the last survey had an expected submission date of December 2020. Please clarify the status of that project, explain the delay in its implementation,

and how the two project will coordinate as there is no reference to it anywhere in the ER until section A.6. In particular, focus on how this CBIT project in combination with the BUR project will help prepare Sierra Leone for the BTR requirements, including for example by helping the country identify areas in which it may require flexibility and an improvement plan.

11/18/2019: All comments above have been clarified.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

**UNEP, 21st October, 2019**

The date provided in the document is an omission. The BUR project started implementation in 2018 and activities are ongoing in terms of institutional capacity building, data management and development of relevant frameworks, as well as some reviews in line with the new national midterm development plan of the government (to name a few). The Government of Sierra Leone expects to finalize the BUR in early 2020. The two programmes (BUR and CBIT) will build synergies for an effective delivery as the Climate Change Secretariat coordinates both (p.21).

**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.

### **Response to Secretariat comments**

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

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement** Yes.

### **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, please address comments above.

If allowed please change the selection of CBIT from NO to YES.

We also note that in Part I: Project Information under Executing Partner Type it says GEF Agency instead of Government . Please change accordingly.

11/18/2019: All comments above have been cleared; however, we noted that in the M&E Budget Audits have been charged instead of to the PMC. Please amend and resubmit for clearance.

### Response to Secretariat comments

**UNEP, 21st October, 2019**

All substantial comments have been addressed. Unfortunately, the system does not allow us the suggested changes (the option of CBIT No/Yes does not appear, the Executing Partner Type is not modifiable), however, we have written to Patricia and Wanderson to execute this change.

**UNEP, 21st November, 2019:** Audits have been now charged to the PMC. Table B and the detailed budget in the CEO Endorsement request have been updated accordingly

### Review Dates

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

#### Response to Secretariat comments

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



**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement****Response to Secretariat comments****Additional Review (as necessary)****Additional Review (as necessary)****CEO Recommendation****Brief Reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The aim of this project is to build and strengthen Sierra Leone's national capacity to implement the transparency elements of the Paris Agreement. Sierra Leone ratified the Paris Agreement on November 1, 2016. Sierra Leone is an LDC and has been ranked as the third most vulnerable nation after Bangladesh and Guinea Bissau to the adverse effects of climate change, yet the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) includes mitigation and adaptation components. The NDC intends to maintain the emission levels of Sierra Leone close to the world average of 7.58 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2035 or neutral by 2050 by reducing its carbon footprint and by following green growth pathways in all economic sectors. The future implementation of Sierra Leone's NDC intends to integrate the climate objectives of the national Low Carbon Development pathway with the sustainable development agenda outlined in the government Agenda of Prosperity, which is Sierra Leone's third Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper.

The proposed project presents an important opportunity to support the Government of Sierra Leone in building its institutional and technological capacity, designing methodological tools and indicators, and engaging all relevant stakeholders. It builds upon the experiences of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Meteorological Agency in the development of its three National Communications to date, and will coordinate with existing REDD+ readiness support from the European Union, which intends to complete forest cover and forest carbon inventories.

The project has the following components:

- (a) National Capacity to track NDC implementation and sustain transparency efforts over time;
- (b) Integrated Platform for Data Sharing and Policy Making hosted by EPA;

The project will enhance institutional effectiveness in data collection on emissions and adaptation, and will strengthen institutional arrangements for data collection and processing through the establishment of inter-ministerial coordination frameworks for the energy and transport, agriculture, land use and land use change, and waste sectors. The capacity of the relevant ministries, agencies, and academia to track and report mitigation and adaptation data from these sectors will be built,

support by user-friendly guidelines and methodologies. A centralized digital system will be developed to collect and manage NDC information, including finance received and needed, methodologies, models, procedures and reports to serve as a centralized and transparent climate data information management system. The project will also support evidence-based climate change policy-making by building the capacities of ministries to analyse climate data and build climate vulnerability projections.

The project includes co-financing of USD 200,000 in-kind from the recipient government.