



Introducing systemic climate resilience methodologies in infrastructure investment planning

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10935

Countries

Global (Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt)

Project Name

Introducing systemic climate resilience methodologies in infrastructure investment planning

Agencies

UNIDO

Date received by PM

5/12/2023

Review completed by PM

11/13/2023

Program Manager

Jason Spensley

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

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

27 November 2023:

Cleared

27 November 2023:

The number of months much be changed by the Agency in the portal. We note Unido has been able to do this for all other projects. The GEF Secretariat can connect UNIDO's GEF team to the GEF IT Portal team to do this together on a call if needed.

19 Nov 2023:

The number of the months of the project is indicated as 60 months. However, the expected start and completion date indicates 24 months duration. Please clarify.

Agency Response

The expected implementation start and completion dates indicate 36 months in the portal. However we are not able to amend the "Duration" of the project from 60 months to 36, this might be due to a technical error.

Addressed. 11.27.23

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

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

28Nov2023:

Cleared

27 November 2023:

All co-financing letters must be provided at CER Approval stage to be considered as co-financing.

We note two sources of co-financing from UNIDO (\$50,000 grant and \$100,000 in recurrent expenditures) do not have letters of co-financing provided. Please do so.

We also note the \$6,310,500 of private sector investment mobilized do not have letters uploaded. Please do so. Otherwise, this cannot be considered as co-finance for this project.

19 and 13 November 2023:

We note co-financing letters are uploaded in the documents section. All co-financing letters are also required to be uploaded in the relevant section of the CER to enable CER endorsement.

Please provide an official letter of co-financing for ?project partners? as source of co-financing.

6 November 2023:

Please upload evidence (letters) of all sources of co-finance directly to the CER.

Agency Response

24 Nov 2023:

We have included co-financing letter for the AfDB co-financing source. Further explanation for the amount of co-financing has been provided in the description. The project partners are willing to provide co-financing letters only at the inception phase of the project; therefore we could not upload them into the portal at the CER stage.

28 Nov 2023:

- UNIDO co-fin letter uploaded (covering both investment 50,000 and in-kind 100,000 co-financing)
 - Added FMDV co-fin letter (4,000,000 USD) and revised co-financing allocation
- Although a significant co-financing has not been mobilized at this stage, it is still expected that it would be mobilized at the project implementation stage. The project team will cautiously monitor any development on that front and reflect yearly progress in annual Project Implementation Reports.

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

25 May 2023:

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
25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response
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
25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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
25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

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

19 Nov 2023:

Cleared

2 Nov 2023:

Please provide a response to the comment below. Please also highlight any corresponding changes made to the CER document.

25 May 2023:

Yes. Please briefly explain the substantive differences, if any, between "Systemic Risk Assessment and Investment Prioritization Tool (SRAT) and Metrics" and the "Climate Smart Investment Planning Tool (CSIP)".

Agency Response

3 Nov 2023:

The proposed Programme is the result of a prior collaboration between UNIDO and CCRI to incorporate global best practices on capital investment planning, as it was presented in the PIF documents. In particular, CCRI has developed and rolled out its Systemic Risk Assessment Tool (SRAT), a geospatial analysis platform for infrastructure risk assessment and investment prioritisation. CCRI's Tool quantifies the macro-economic impacts of simulated disruptions from natural hazards. In order to respond to the changes in the partnership status, the Climate Smart Investment Planning (CSIP) methodology that is currently proposed in this document will be developed ad-hoc for this project. UNIDO will procure services of a specialized methodology provider (research institute/academia/NGO), which will be identified through an open international procurement process. The CSIP methodology will not be limited to

adaptation, but will additionally incorporate projections on the mitigation impact, providing a cross-cutting approach.

The substantial difference between both methodologies is that CSIP will quantify, on top of the adaptation-specific analysis that SRAT could provide, the carbon emissions saving potential from improved technologies and design specifications for new infrastructure projects.

A more detailed explanation on the methodology was incorporated into Part II, Section 5: Previous experience in infrastructure investment planning.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

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

27 Nov 2023:

Cleared

19 Nov 2023:

It is well noted that the project provides details on stakeholder consultation during project development and general stakeholder engagement plan describing the roles and means of engagement. Please provide some more details on these expected roles and means of engagement linked to the specific project components.

6 Nov 2023:

Cleared.

2 Nov 2023:

Please provide a response to the comment below. Please also highlight any corresponding changes made to the CER document.

25 May 2023:

Please add a brief description of how stakeholders were engaged during the design (PPG) phase.

Agency Response

3 Nov 2023:

Stakeholder's consultations status:

? Antigua and Barbuda: an informative session was held with representatives of Antigua and Barbuda to share the project details, validate the country's support, and gather feedback regarding the project proposed activities.

? Egypt: A workshop with key stakeholders was held virtually on September 21st. For more details on the agenda and participants check the Annex J: stakeholder's engagement plan.

? Uganda: Bilateral in person and virtual meetings were held in Uganda with various agencies between October 2022 and September 2023. The main goals of this meetings were to communicate the initiative, check for potential partnerships, and collect feedback from key stakeholders.

The change has been reflected in Section 2. Stakeholders and Annex J - Stakeholders engagement Plan.

24 Nov 2023

We have updated the Stakeholder engagement plan and added relevant information into the stakeholder section of the CER.

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

19 November 2023:

Please ensure that the Gender Action Plan is budgeted, monitored and reported on

Agency Response

24 Nov 2023:

We have added a separate position (Activity) for the GAP, the budget for monitoring is included in the M&E component

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response
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

27 Nov 2023:

Cleared

19 and 13 Nov 2023:

We note the LOEs submitted by Antigua and Barbuda and Uganda. The LOE from Egypt will be required prior to final CEO endorsement.

6 Nov 2023:

Please provide all Letters of Endorsement as well as letters indicating UNIDO as the implementing and executing partner from all 3 countries.

The detailed explanation of why UNIDO is recommended to self execute this project on an exceptional basis is well noted and has been discussed within the GEF Secretariat. Formal approval will be considered and provided upon final approval of the CEO.

2 Nov 2023:

Please provide a response to the comment below. Please also highlight any corresponding changes made to the CER document.

25 May 2023:

Please note all executing entities need to be specified prior to CEO approval.

Please clarify if there will be a different national project executing entity for each country, or otherwise.

We note that UNIDO will maintain a minority project executing role, focused on procurement and coordination, for approximately 20% of the total project finance or less. This is subject to final GEF approval at the CEO approval stage.

Agency Response

3 Nov 2023:

As a result of the GEF Adaptation Innovation Challenge, in December 2021, the project grant has been initially awarded by the GEF to the Coalition for Climate Resilient Infrastructure (CCRI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), supported by UNIDO as a GEF Agency.

During the PPG phase, in December 2022, due to the dissolution of the coalition, CCRI decided to withdraw from the project and the WRI took over as a project execution entity. Due to geographical limitations and changing organizational priorities, on April 3, 2023, the WRI decided to withdraw from the project.

After consultation with the GEF Secretariat and the extension of the project submission deadline, in August 2023 UNIDO launched an international call for proposals to identify an entity that would execute the project.

The tender yielded no results even after the submission deadline extension. UNIDO consulted the entities that indicated interest but did not submit an offer to elaborate on the reasons for not submitting the tender. There were two key factors identified, 1) not sufficient budget to execute the project in three countries, 2) lack of local presence in the countries in different geographies.

Therefore, UNIDO had another round of consultation with the GEF Secretariat expressing willingness and capacity to provide execution support for the work in the selected pilot countries on an exceptional basis. For the execution, UNIDO would utilize 50% of the budget through its local offices and experts, whereas implementation and oversight would be done in UNIDO headquarters. The two substantive offices have a separate reporting lines in the organization, that would secure the segregation of implementation and execution duties.

The remaining 50% of the budget would be utilized to develop the climate-resilient infrastructure planning in methodology. The executing entity for this work would be procured by UNIDO through an open call for proposals. Entities such as the University of Washington, University of Oxford, WRI, etc., would be invited to submit their proposal based on their earlier interest in the work on methodology.

On 2 October, the GEF Secretariat informed UNIDO that the GEF senior management has agreed with the solution proposed by UNIDO to self-execute this project, and to contract the methodology development aspect of the project once the CEO Endorsement document is approved.

The change has been reflected in Section 6. Institutional arrangements and coordination.

24 Nov 2023:

Egypt LoE uploaded

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

25 May 2023:

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

6 Nov 2023:

Cleared.

2 Nov 2023:

Please provide a response to the comment below. Please also highlight any corresponding changes made to the CER document.

25 May 2023:

Yes. Please note opportunities for shared learning with other projects supported by the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation that are developing metrics and good practice on factoring in physical climate risks and monitoring into investment decision making.

Agency Response

3 Nov 2023:

The Knowledge Management section was improved to incorporate the learnings and best practices from previous UNIDO experiences and strengthen. The new activities proposed in the KM section include:

- Dissemination of the programme results and lessons learned through networks and forums, including UNIDO's Open Data Platform.
- Fact sheets preparation and performance reports summarising the results will be published in UNIDO's webpage.

- Up-to-date reports on project monitoring will be shared with key stakeholders and organisations active in the area.
 - Training sessions, workshops and multi-stakeholder meetings will be use to share information about the project and methodology.
- The change has been reflected into Section 8. Knowledge management.

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27 Nov 2023:

Cleared

19 Nov 2023:

Please request the agency to provide a budget organized by component that includes detailed description on each activity, and also which agency will be responsible for executing such category. Once the new budget is presented PPO will review it.

Agency Response

24 Nov 2023:

A detailed budget has been uploaded as annex ("210285_Cliamte Resilience GEF_Project_Budget v1.xlsx"), a short summary has been included in the portal.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

2 Nov 2023:

Please provide a response to the comment below. Please also highlight any corresponding changes made to the CER document.

25 May 2023:

Please address the comments provided.

Agency Response

3 Nov 2023:

All responses have been provided in the portal. Corresponding changes in the CER document have been highlighted in yellow.

10 Nov 2023:

Provided updated endorsement letter for Antigua and Barbuda, reflecting UNIDO's execution role in the project. Change in the Implementation Arrangement section (marked with **blue**), to reflect the execution setup in Uganda, which was agreed for the Endorsement Letter (should be issued by the OFP by 15 Nov). Revised Endorsement Letter from Egypt to follow within the next two weeks, due to administrative procedure.

Updated co-financing table to reflect available co-financing letters.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27Nov2023:

Cleared

19 Nov 2023:

Status of PPG is presented per output, but not per the eligible categories / activities included in Guidelines. Please ask the Agency to amend.

Agency Response

24 Nov 2023:

A revised table has been provided

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

25 May 2023:

Cleared

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

25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

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

25 May 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

29Nov2023:

Recommended for technical clearance.

27 November 2023:

Please address remaining comments.

19 and 13 November 2023:

Please note comments on all relevant letters.

6 November 2023:

Please note comments on OFP letters as well as on Co-finance letters.

2 November 2023:

Not yet. All comments need to be addressed.

25 May 2023:

Not yet. Comments are required to be addressed.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	5/25/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/2/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/6/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/13/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/19/2023	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

