



# Enabling activities for implementing UNCCD COP15 decisions on drought

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11481

**Countries**

Global

**Project Name**

Enabling activities for implementing UNCCD COP15 decisions on drought

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

10/27/2023

**Review completed by PM**

11/29/2023

**Program Manager**

Ulrich Apel

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Project Type**

## Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

### Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

#### Funding elements.

**Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023:

a) Yes, the EA is aligned with GEF-8 PD.

b) Please enter data in all fields in the general information table (such as date of submission). Suggest to use the date of the next COP.

11/28/2023: Not fully addressed

- Please use 01/01/2024 as a start date as this is now more realistic.

- Please enter a date for the reporting to the convention, the filed cannot be left blank. I suggest to either use the date of the next COP or the date of the next reporting cycle, which is 12/31/2026 as of now.

11/29/2023: Addressed.

Cleared

#### Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

a- No response required

b- Noted. This has been updated in the portal

#### Cost Ranges.

**If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?**

## Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: No deviation.

Cleared

## Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

No response required

### **Enabling activity summary.**

**Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?**

## Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: Not fully.

In Table B, please clarify and/or state more precisely the following:

- How can "parties increased commitment" (1.1) be measured? (could an increased number and quality of National Drought Plans be an indicator?)
- The "approach developed" for monitoring (2.1.1) may be better termed: "development of national monitoring and reporting frameworks supported, including gender-sensitive approaches.
- Which "options" (2.1.2) are being referred to? Are these the options identified by the first phase of IWG? This should be specified, also as an indication that the EA builds on the previous work.

11/28/2023: Addressed.

12/05/2023: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS on gender:

Under Component 3, with reference to: "National capacities on financing for drought resilience-building built and approaches for portfolio management established", please integrate gender equality aspects. Under Component 4, reference to: "National knowledge base platforms on drought monitoring (including land and water monitoring), forecasting and risk assessment developed?", please ensure that the knowledge base platforms to be

developed will also feature gender-specific aspects of forecasting, risk assessments and monitoring. Please ensure under M&E that gender-specific results are reported on.

Please address.

12/07/2023: Addressed in the revised text of the EA under component 3.

### Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

**Comment 1:** Increased commitment of Parties is measured through two indicators that correspond to the two outputs:

- Parties who are engaged in the work of the IWG on drought through a number of capacity-building programmes on the preparation for and negotiation on the decisions of the Conference of Parties;
- the number of National Drought Plans interlinked with development agendas at the sub-national level. The response is incorporated in Table B, and the correction is reflected in Section 2.C and the Annex B? Budget Table.

**Comment 2:** The suggestion is well-taken. The Output 2.1.1. is corrected accordingly in Table B, and the correction is reflected in Section 2.C and the Annex D ? The Project Logframe and Links to the Decision 23/COP.15.

**Comment 3:** The Output (2.1.2) builds on the existing work of the IWG (2019-2022), further elaborated by the IWG (2022-2024). The Output will support the evaluation of the identified options (8 retained options by the new IWG) based on the country-level experiences. Furthermore, the Output will provide further options and their specifications, synthesized from country-driven approaches.

The response is incorporated in Table B, and the correction is reflected in Section 2.C.

### Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

#### Eligibility Criteria.

**Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?**

**Secretariat's Comments** 10/30/2023: Yes.

### Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

No response required

**Institutional framework.**

**Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?**

Secretariat's Comments 10/30/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

No response required

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: Not fully.

The EA mentions that a detailed plan will be developed in the first 3 months of the project. However, please provide a basis M&E budget table that breaks down the earmarked M&E costs of \$120,000.

11/28/2023: Addressed.

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

An M&E budget table with the breakdown of costs and activities is provided in Section E. ?  
Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.

**Section 3. Information Tables**

**GEF resource availability.**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table F (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion**

10/30/2023: Yes.

12/05/2023: ADDITIONAL COMMENT on the budget:

Please explain what \$20,000 GOE entails. Note that GOE is not an eligible expenditure.

12/07/2023: Budget table revised. The GOE line has been specified with "Supplies for PMU".

### **Agency Response**

10/11/2023

No response required

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: Yes. The EA will be funded out of LDFA global set-asides for Enabling Activities.

Cleared

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

No response required

**Rio Markers.**

**Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: Yes, however, it is suggested to only select Desertification markers for this UNCCD EA.

11/28/2023: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

Noted. The portal has been updated

**Country endorsement.**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal**

Secretariat's Comments 10/30/2023: n/a for a global project.

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

No response required

**Response to Comments**

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)  
Gef Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments  
**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments  
**Council comments**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments  
**STAP comments**

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments  
**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat's Comments none received

Agency's Comments  
**CSOs comments**

Secretariat's Comments none received

Agency's Comments  
**Project Budget Table.**

**Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: Budget table is attached. However, please address the following:

a) The budget table should follow the GEF budget template as per guidelines, and indicate PMC, M&E, and responsible entity in columns



b) The budget for output 1.1.1. is considered inadequate. Please increase the budget up to \$200,000 to enable support of the IWG, as appropriate. This will affect the total budget, please re-adjust the entire budget calculation and reflect the changes in all tables accordingly.

c) Please list all PMC (currently termed: "technical management and coordination) in the PMC column. Note that the total PMC should not exceed 10% of total project financing.

11/28/2023: Addressed. However, I have an editorial remark: As the GEF budget table does not require a break down by Year, the three additional columns just take up space and make the figures very tiny. Please consider to remove the 'Year' column and increase font size slightly (without going over the margins).

11/29/2023: Addressed.

### Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

**Comment 1:** The Project Budget Table is corrected, and the GEF budget template is inserted, including the PMS, M&E and responsible entity columns.

**Comment 2:** Output 1.1.1. related to the support of the IWG is increased to 200,000 USD. The total budget is corrected accordingly, and the changes are included in the relevant parts (Section 1 ? Table A and B, Section 3 ? GEF Financing Table, Annex B). The allocation of the increased budget is indicated in the budget table.

**Comment 3:** The PMC is listed in the PMC column. The total PMC is within 10% of the total project financing.

### Environmental and Social Safeguards.

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached?  
(only as applicable)**

### Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: This is only applicable, if FAO internally requires ESS for this type of projects.

Please clarify if FAO will require an ESS assessment for this EA?

11/28/2023: Addressed.

Agency's Comments

10/11/2023

FAO does not require ESS.

**GEFSEC DECISION  
RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/30/2023: No. Please address comments made in this review.

11/28/2023: No. Please address outstanding comments made in this review.

12/05/2023: No. Please address additional comments made in this review.

12/07/2023: Yes. Program Manager recommends CEO approval.

**REVIEW DATE(S)**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>10/30/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>11/28/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>11/29/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>12/5/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>12/7/2023</b>	