



Enabling Activities to Support the ratification and early implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (EA-BBNJ)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11820

Countries

Global (Belize, Chile, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Mexico, Tanzania, Philippines, Uruguay)

Project Name

Enabling Activities to Support the ratification and early implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (EA-BBNJ)

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

10/12/2024

Review completed by PM

10/16/2024

Program Manager

Andrew Hume

Focal Area

International Waters

Project Type

EA

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

31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

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 31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes. However, in Section 1 where all the Project Executing Entities are listed, please itemize this list so that each country has its own row and the respective cell for Executing Partner Type (e.g. Government or GEF Agency) is listed.

12 November 2024 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

07 Nov. 2024 (UNDP):

Included as requested.

Project Executing Entity(s): ①		Executing Partner Type:	GEF Agency
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chile)		Government
	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) (Ghana)		Government
	UNDP Philippines		GEF Agency
	Vice-President Office (Tanzania)		Government
	UNDP Dominican Republic		GEF Agency
	Ministry of the Sea (Cabo Verde)		Government
	UNDP Mexico		GEF Agency
	UNDP Uruguay		GEF Agency
	UNDP Belize		GEF Agency

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes. Please ensure that the project monitors and regularly reports on gender-specific results/gender dimensions of the project.

12 November 2024 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

07 Nov. 2024 (UNDP):

Text included in gender section, as well as in the monitoring plan (highlighted in yellow).

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 31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments
Rio Markers.
Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments
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

31 October 2024 (ahume): No. Please address the following issues with the LOEs:

- a) The LoEs from Ghana and Tanzania miss the footnote conditioning the designated executing entity to be subject to UNDP capacity assessment. Also, focal area is wrongly indicated as BD Global Set-aside, should be IW. Please obtain a revised LOE with such footnote and corrected focal area source:
- b) LoE from Mexico has different project title than in Portal and indicates that UNDP is executing the project. The LOE was not signed by the current OFP as per the GEF website. Please obtain a revised LOE to correct these errors.
- c) LoE from Chile has different project title than in Portal. Please obtain a revised LOE or an email confirmation from the OFP to confirm the correct title of the project.
- d) LoE from Dominican Republic was not signed by the current OFP. The LOE also indicates that UNDP will execute the project. Please obtain a revised LOE to correct these errors.
- e) LoE from Uruguay indicates that UNDP will execute the project, which is not in line with this quote from the Institutional arrangement section: *?The government national ministry(s) responsible for responsible for BBNJ Agreement ratification, approval, acceptance or accession, or its implementation in each participating country, or otherwise appointed by the Ministry, will be the National Executing Agency (NEA). The NEAs will coordinate the activities of the EA within each country.?* Please obtain a revised LOE to correct this error.

12 November 2024 (ahume): Addressed.

- a) Addressed. Revised LOEs for Ghana and Tanzania now include the footnote and correctly identify IW.
- b) Addressed. Revised LOE from Mexico has the correct OFP, project title, and alignment with Portal for project execution.
- c) Addressed. Revised LOE from Chile has correct project title.
- d) Addressed. Revised LOE from Dominican Republic has correct OFP and alignment with Portal for project execution.
- e) Addressed. Revised LOE from Uruguay is now aligned with Portal for project execution.

Agency's Comments

07 Nov. 2024 (UNDP):

Adjusted LOEs included. A new LOE from Belize has been received, mentions of this new LOE are included in budget and other related items highlighted in yellow.

Response to Comments

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

Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

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

31 October 2024 (ahume): Please use the revised project budget that was shared by email on October 31 2024. During national level disbursement, please ensure that:

- a) UNDP operational support services to implementation from the project budget are covered from Agency fee.
- b) Office supplies are to be charged 100% to PMC but not to project component.

12 November 2024 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

7 Nov 2024 (UNDP):

Shared budget has been included as annex to the EA:

- a) a) UNDP support services are not included in the budget
- b) b) Supplies were removed from other components and are under PMC.

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

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

Secretariat's Comments

31 October 2024 (ahume): Partly. The overall ESS risk of the project is classified as moderate, and UNDP attached Social and Environmental Screening Template. However, the ESMF integrating mitigation measures for Risk 1, 2 and 3 is required at this stage. Please include these mitigation measures in the resubmission.

12 November 2024 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

07 Nov. 2024 (UNDP):

Thank you for the comment. A stand-alone ESMF has not been produced at this stage, because: (i) This is an ENABLING ACTIVITY in which full and meaningful participation of stakeholders, gender-inclusion and accountability to stakeholders (which trigger UNDP's Programming Principles) are the main identified SES risks, with an overall **Moderate** risk rating; under the UNDP SES Policy an ESMF is not a *requirement* for a project of this type, with few risks and no on-the-ground activities (or no direct activities with on-the-ground footprints); (ii) Steps and procedures for delivery of the key SES risk management instruments for the identified risks (country-specific stakeholder engagement strategies; national assessments - including identification of potential downstream impacts and measures for assessing and managing them) are already integrated into the project framework, as follows:

Under Output 1.1: An initial BBNJ Assessment (which will include, inter alia, an overview of each country context and the prevailing socio-economic and environmental issues relevant to implementation of the BBNJ and readiness to implement its provisions - which may include capacity and instruments for addressing any indirect, downstream impacts) **Under Output 1.2:** (a) In each country, a National Assessment, which will include detailed mapping of stakeholders and indigenous and traditional); (b) a legal, policy, regulatory and institutional capacity gap analysis for implementation of the BBNJ, and also including considerations for managing impacts associated with fair and equitable access and benefit sharing from use of marine genetic resources; gender equality and women's empowerment; inclusion and protection of traditional and indigenous knowledge; and environmental impacts.

Under Output 2.1: a Gender-responsive M&E plan. If these analyses identify that implementation of the BBNJ may result indirectly in adverse social or environmental impacts when the agreements are implemented, then the assessment reports should include an Environmental and Social Management Framework that will outline steps and procedures for further risk screening, assessment and mitigation, but this cannot be done ahead of the analyses being carried out.

At the project Inception workshop, the SESP and any other safeguards requirements will be revisited and the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism will be operationalized. Further, a country-specific roadmap for implementing the required SES actions (including those integrated into the delivery of project outputs) will be developed at Inception, detailing roles and responsibilities, plan for delivery (including budget) and reporting requirements, as applicable to Umbrella EA projects of this type and scale.

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION.

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments 31 October 2024 (ahume): Please address the comments above and resubmit.

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	10/31/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/12/2024	

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat comments**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as
necessary)**