

# Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon's Sudano- Sahelian agro-ecological zone

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10608

**Countries**

Cameroon

**Project Name**

Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

3/31/2022

**Review completed by PM**

6/20/2022

**Program Manager**

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**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  
**April 8, 2022**

- The project is aligned with the LD2.7 objective to create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN.

Cleared.

Agency Response  
**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  
**April 8, 2022**

Cleared.

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

NA

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

**June 6, 2022**

There are 18 GEF Agencies. They should appear as such. You corrected the status of IUCN, but not IFAD.

Please, correct.

**April 8, 2022**

- IUCN should be considered as a GEF Agency in the table C on cofinancing. Please, update.

- Cofinancing is confirmed. Cleared.

Agency Response

**July 04, 2022**

**IFAD and IUCN changed to "donor agency" as recommended. Thanks.**

June 10, 2022

IFAD, GEF Agency corrected. Thanks.

31 May 2022

Table C has been updated, IUCN GEF Agency.

**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

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 8, 2022**

Please, adjust the **ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant**

- General Operating expenses is not an eligible item: either you remove it or you subtract it from the amount paid by the GEF.

- We are not sure that "expendable procurement" is either an eligible item: please, clarify, remove it, or subtract it.

- Please complete the third column.

Agency Response

31 May 2022

- General operating expenses removed. These were associated with consultation workshops.
- Expendable procurement consists of materials used during consultation workshops: notepads, pens and folders, protective masks against COVID-19, sanitizers.
- The third column completed.

**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  
**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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  
**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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  
**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 8, 2022**

Yes, this project proposes an innovative application of LDN at the municipal level under the LD2.7 objective to Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN.

Cleared.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 8, 2022**

- There is a map under the annex D. Cleared.

- Please, include the coordinates of the targeted landscapes under the same area.

Agency Response

31 May 2022

Coordinates now included, thanks.

**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

NA

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  
**April 8, 2022**

Yes. Consultations were organized in November 2021 and February 2022 in the North and Far North regions.

The project document was validated in Yaounde in March 2022.

The list of stakeholders met at PPG stage is included in the annex I.

Addressed.

Agency Response  
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  
**April 8, 2022**

Yes, gender issues are well included in the project and aligned with the UNCCD gender action plan and the GEF7 LD strategy. Gender issues are included along two main objectives in view of 1) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources and 2) improving women's participation and decision making.

Cleared.



Agency Response  
**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  
**April 8, 2022**

The GEF project will engage with agro-pastoral cooperatives and SMEs in the target municipalities (mentioned in the annex I). Linkages to microfinance institutions is being established under the PADFAII project (cofinancing).

Cleared.

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  
**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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  
**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 8, 2022**

Partially addressed.

We potentially welcome the invitation of REPALAC in the steering committee. However, the REPALAC is a regional organization. Wouldn't it be more realistic to empower an Indigenous People Organization active in the North and Far North region, MBOSCOUDA for instance? Please, clarify.

Agency Response

31 May 2022

Thanks for the suggestion, taken. It is indeed realistic to empower MBOSCOUDA. Still, participation of REPALAC as a knowledge partner on IPLC issues, building on the exchanges and relationship established during PPG, will be beneficial for the project.

**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

**April 8, 2022**

Addressed.

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

**April 8, 2022**

Yes, the KM approach is well embedded in the project, with a KM and communication plan with deliverables.

Addressed.

## Agency Response

### 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

**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 8, 2022**

The project risk certification at PIF level concluded to a **moderate risk**. In this project submission for CEO approval, the screening checklist only mentions **low risks**, including for the indigenous people (Mbororo nomadic groups), land tenure, and access to natural resources. Please, explain this change, confirm this position, and confirm the risks and mitigation measures are adequately documented.

## Agency Response

04 July 2022

An additional Annex N document the process followed in consultations and plans for engagement with the indigenous communities during implementation is now incorporated in the project document. This annex also contains signatures of the IP community members.

31 May 2022

We confirm that the overall risk classification for the project is Moderate ? no change from the PIF stage classification.

There are a couple of safeguards classified as moderate, related to indigenous peoples (9) and the establishment of nurseries for agroforestry and restoration.

1.10 Tenure is not triggered i.e. it remains low because the project will not result in a negative change to existing legitimate tenure rights. Through component 1, the project aims to contribute to the improvement of communities and marginalized groups (Indigenous Peoples Communities) access to land and natural resources, through inclusive land use planning and advocacy with local and traditional authorities.

We confirm that risks and mitigation measures are documented.

#### **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

**April 8, 2022**

Yes, there is a M&E plan. See comments on the budget and the different positions.

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

**April 8, 2022**

Yes, see paras 165 and 166.

Agency Response

**Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**June 20, 2022**

Addressed.

**June 6, 2022**

In the project arrangements, you defined FAO as the implementing agency and you identified at least three executing partners (MINEPDED, IUCN, and ICRAF). With the explanations provided under the question of the lumpsum of \$74,500, we understand that FAO manage the financial aspects of the project. It seems that FAO is having a role beyond an Implementing Agency and manages the day-to-day finances. 1) Please, confirm.

We wonder 2) if a National Implementation Mode would not be possible at one point and 3) if the GEF Focal point clearly expressed this request to FAO (it should be possible; we saw that the Ministry of Environment asked to other GEF Agencies to have such a role). In this case, please, provide an evidence.

**April 18, 2022**

### **Budget**

We would please need some clarifications about the budget:

- It is difficult to agree on the purchase of a vehicle, operating costs, and a budget for a driver, without a good understanding of the field situation: 1) Please, describe the existing fleet of the executing partners, and eventually from the cofinancing; 2) explore the possibilities to purchase the vehicle with other funds (cofinancing, core funds from FAO, for instance). This solution would be the preferred option. Thanks.
- Please, detail the lumpsum of \$74,500 included in the pmc for contract management and monitoring with executing entities. Please, provide the titles of these positions and brief terms of reference.
- We are seeing that a budget for a driver and an administrative assistant is added on the top of this lump. We need to understand the role of the administrative assistant in comparison with the other positions financed under the \$74,500. Thanks to clarify.
- We also need to understand the logics to have a gender position financed by the technical component. Please, clarify.
- The KM and M&E positions are covered by the M&E component. OK. Please, clarify the non-duplication with the positions covered by pmc for "contract management and monitoring with executing entities".
- Could you please explain the origin and the role of the \$2 million of cofinancing in front of the pmc? Is there any position covered by this cofinancing?
- It is mentioned that the ?National Project Technical Coordinator? will be ?responsible for the day-to-day management of the project?. He/she will be responsible for ?the overall planning, coordination of project activities, and monitoring of project

results?. With these formulations, it is difficult to agree on the use of resources from the technical components to finance this position. With such formulations, it seems that this position should be financed under the pmc; but the pmc can go beyond 10%.

- We suggest adjusting the terms of references to better highlight the technical role of this position or find a way to cover this position with cofinancing (\$2 million are indicated).
- The comments above are also applicable to the position of ?regional coordinator? or ?national coordinator assistant?. Please, clarify.

## Agency Response

July 04, 2022

### Budget:

- the M&E budget has been reduced from 13% to a reasonable 7%.

- based on experience from past and ongoing projects in Cameroon, day-to-day technical support for the project is absolutely necessary, in addition to management and coordination. This is reflected in the ToRs of the project technical coordinator and the regional coordinator.

We have explored the co-financing options recommended. In this moment, it is not possible to obtain direct co-financing for these positions from existing trust funds. This would require re-negotiation and endorsement by the funders, which would be lengthy.

Additional co-financing will be explored during implementation.

June 10, 2022

FAO will not manage the day-to-day finances of the project. Funds will be transferred to executing partners who will be responsible for the day-to-day financial management, as will be stipulated in signed Agreements with FAO.

The FAO finance and operations budget line, which was intended for audits/spot-checks has been eliminated - to remove any unintended lack of clarity.

31 May 2022

- Vehicle: MINEPDED have highlighted that the two regional delegations in the North and Far North have real vehicle problems to monitor activities in the field. After further exploration and internal negotiations, FAO will support the project with a vehicle from an existing limited fleet in FAO Cameroon.

- Lumpsum \$74,500: The \$74,500 in the PMC goes towards a finance and operations officer in FAO who will be responsible for financial spot-checks. This entails a comprehensive review of financial statements submitted by executing partners, in line with signed Letters of Agreements including agreed deliverables and budget. The spot-checks are in lieu of full annual financial audits which would be relatively more expensive due to the number of executing entities in the project (1 annual audit per executing partner ~ \$7,500 to \$8,550). The finance and operations officer will also be responsible for the preparation of consolidated financial reports based on verified financial statements from the executing partners.

- Administrative assistant: Expanded ToRs are now included in Annex L. There is no overlap with the functions of the finance and operations officer.

- Gender position: The gender position is financed under technical components because the person will be responsible for implementation of the gender action plan, with activities cutting across these components (as reflected in the gender action plan ? Annex K).

- KM and M&E positions: As clarified above, there is no overlap between these positions and the finance and operations officer.

- PMC co-financing: The \$2million co-financing represents in-kind co-financing from MINEPDED (National Project Director and support staff time for coordination and Office Space (PMU)), PADFA II (office space in Maroua and staff time for coordination), FAO (staff-time for coordination with an ongoing GCF readiness project in the North and Far North).

- National Project Technical Coordinator: Based on experience from past and ongoing projects in Cameroon, there is need for day-to-day technical support for the project, in addition to management and coordination. The intention is reflected in the title, but was not so clear in the ToRs. These have been revised, highlighting the technical nature of the position (and inputs to the technical components).

- Regional Coordinator: Inputs to technical components have been clarified in the ToRs (Annex L).

## **Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 8, 2022**

- Several comments were made at PIF level to be clarified or responded at CEO approval (on risks, ESS, coordination, and the private sector). Please check these comments and provide a table of responses.

Agency Response

27 May 2022

Table of responses has been included in Annex B.

**Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA



Agency Response  
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response  
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**June 6, 2022**

Addressed.

April 18, 2022

See comments above about the annex D.

Agency Response  
27 May 2022

Addressed above.

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 8, 2022**

See comment above. A map is provided. The coordinates are expected under the same annex in the portal.

Agency Response  
27 May 2022

Coordinates now included, thanks.

**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  
NA

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 NA

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 NA

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**July 5, 2022**

All the points are addressed. The level of 7% for M&E is acceptable.

**June 24, 2022**

Control quality, please, address the following comments:

1. Environmental and Social Safeguards: We note that the project overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and FAO attached the updated FAO's Environmental and social risk identification screening checklist. However, several aspects are not clear, including the following:

a. The details of consultations with a representative of the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC), Association for the Social and Cultural Development of the Mbororo People (MBOSCUA) and others.



4. Stakeholder Engagement (complementary to the comments on safeguards): The project states that it has consulted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) during project development. It is unclear, however, how these key stakeholders have been engaged and consulted during project development. In addition, the annexed stakeholder engagement matrix does not elaborate on the process and plans for further consultation and engagement with IPCLs. Please ask the Agency to provide further details and information on consultations with IPLCs during project development as well as plans for further consultations and engagement during project execution.

**June 20, 2022**

The MSP is recommended for CEO approval.

**June 6, 2022**

Please, address the remaining comments: (I) item 2 and the item on annexes and the point on the project arrangements.

**April 8, 2022**

Please, address the comments above. Please, pay attention that this project is under threat of cancellation as it should be approved by 5/6/22 in less than one month.

**Review Dates**

|   | <b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b> | <b>Response to Secretariat comments</b> |
|---|---|---|
| <b>First Review</b>                     | 4/8/2022                                      |   |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> | 6/6/2022                                      |   |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> | 6/24/2022                                     |   |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> | 7/7/2022                                      |   |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> |   |   |

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**