

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella 1

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10900

Countries

Global (Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Iraq, Mauritania, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Suriname, Tajikistan)

Project Name

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella 1

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

12/9/2021

Review completed by PM

2/25/2022

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO) ☐

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 25, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

Not fully addressed: in the part I, you mentioned "global", it is fine, however, you should have access to a dropdown menu and select the 20 countries who are concerned by this Umbrella project.

- The name of these countries should popped up in the part I.
- The list of countries should then also appeared in the Table D.

Please, correct.

- The information under project submission, start, and completion is not available either. Please, fill in.

December 15, 2021

Yes.

Please, pay attention to the additional documents you logged into the portal: the request for CEO approval was attached, but several aspects of the part I are not completed: either you removed this document or you finalize it.

Agency Response

18.02.2022

The pending information in the template is now completed.

25.02.2022

The 20 Countries forming the Global project are selected and now reflect in part I of the Portal

The submission, start and completion dates are also updated.

The list of countries is also included now in Table D.

Project description summary

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

February 18, 2022

Addressed.

December 15, 2022

Not fully.

? In the A) ENABLING ACTIVITY BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT, LDN has therefore become a guiding principle for UNCCD implementation: please replace ?guiding? by ?important, while non mandatory?.

? The principles to follow is that the GSPIII and the Umbrella projects should help addressing most, if not all COP14 decisions and papers related to 1) the formulation of voluntary targets to achieve LDN, 2) the use of the UNCCD monitoring and evaluation framework, including progress indicators, to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the LDN target, 3) explore options on how to integrate the voluntary LDN targets in their UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs), and 4) promote the use of LDN targets and projects and other SLM initiatives as an effective voluntary vehicle for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and investments to address issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD).

? We understand that each SSFA will be specific, but explanations should be available to describe the general framework, the logics, and a menu of actions developing a range of

activities to help national authorities implementing the UNCCD reporting and review system with (i) progress indicators to measure the progress against the future strategic framework of the UNCCD, (ii) an implementation framework to assess actions at a national and sub-national level relevant for UNCCD implementation, and iii) monitoring of financing for UNCCD implementation.

? Please, develop a chapter describing clearly the result framework and the logics outcomes/outputs/results/activities that will be included in the small-scale financial agreements with each country (SSFA).

? Proposed themes may include Trend.Earth tool, PRAIS reporting platform, gender mainstreaming, CSO contribution to LDN implementation, public awareness, communications. and mainstreaming strategy.

? In addition to training and workshops, some activities related to public participation may include (i) involvement of key stakeholders, including the Civil society, in the national reporting process; (ii) organization of inclusive meetings during the processes and results validation meetings; (iii) special meetings with Government officials to address the issues of SLM and national development policies and strategies; and (iv) targeted media involvement in the delivering key messages to the larger public particularly during the stakeholder's meetings.

? The result framework should reflect this ambition, especially in its output 1.1.1. We would like to see a short description (a menu of options?) of themes for eventual trainings, workshops, communication exercises, etc. One example is included in the output 1.1.1, as ?Mainstream gender issues?. However, these aspects may not be limited to the report, but to the mainstreaming of gender issues in the implementation and monitoring of LDN targets for instance.

Agency Response

18.02.2022

- Item 1 related to the removal of the ?guiding principle? is addressed.
- Item 2 related to the principles to be observed by the EA is addressed in section B.1
- Item 3 related to the explanation of SSFA is addressed in Section C1.
- Item 4 related to the EA framework/SSFA is addressed in Section C1
- Items 5 and 6 are addressed in Section C1 together with items 2, 3 and 4

Co-financing

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

No cofinancing is requested for the enabling activities.

Cleared.

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Are they within the resources available from:

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 25, 2022

Addressed.

February 18, 2022

- Thanks for the changes.
- There is one remaining comment: you included \$50,000 for the terminal evaluation, but these \$50,000 are included in the pmc. It is not correct. M&E budget should be separated from the pmc. We suggest including a new component on M&E.
- Please, also describe the M&E component in the text under the chapter B describing the objectives, the components, and the activities.

December 15, 2022

Budget

? The table shows three components from 1 to 3 while the result framework includes one technical component and project management costs. Please, make information coherent between the result framework, the budget, and in the different documents (portal, EA).

? The budget should clearly reflect 20 SSFA of \$91,324 (+\$8,676 of fees) for a subtotal of \$100,000 per country (or \$1,826,484 of GEF grants + \$173,516 of fees for 20 countries) + \$127,854 on the top of the 20 SCAF counted as pmc (+12,146 of fees). The total is 1,954,338 of GEF grant + \$185,662 of Agency fees.

	GEF grant	GEF Fees	GEF total
1 country	91,324	8,676	100,000
20 countries	1,826,484	173,516	2,000,000
pmc	127,854	12,146	140,000
total	1,954,338	185,662	2,140,000

Agency Response

04.04.2022

Budget amount adjusted and harmonized with Table B.

18.02.2022

Item 1: the information is now made consistent between different elements of the EA package

Item 2: The figures are corrected. A budget note is added under Table D to provide details of the calculation as indicated by the review.

25.02.2022

An M&E component is now created and the corresponding \$50,000 is included against it. The M&E activities are described in Chapter B as per the guidance

The PMC budget does not include M&E now

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 18, 2022

Addressed.

December 15, 2022

Lessons from the GSP I and II are included.

Lessons from the previous umbrellas projects would be welcome. Please, complete. Reflect the lessons in the risks section.

Agency Response

18.02.2022

Lessons learned from the previous umbrella have now been included. Re: Section A: EA background

Risk related to lessons from previous reporting/umbrella process has been included in Risk Table B2.

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 18, 2022

Addressed.

December 15, 2022

No.

See the item 1.

Agency Response

18.02.2022

Comment in item 1 has been addressed in the related section.

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 Yes.

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

Gender issues is one of the elements to mainstream in the next reporting cycle.

Cleared.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 18, 2022

Addressed.

December 15, 2022

Coordination

? We appreciate the coordination with the GSP III, Earth.Trends, the FAO project, and IUCN MSP (to be developed). To be confirmed with the approval of some of these global projects.

Safeguards

- ? Please, explain on which criteria you select the national entities in view of signing the SSFA?
- ? Are you assessing a minimum the financial and technical capacities of the national entities?
- ? Could you share the lessons from past GEF5 and GEF6 umbrella projects to well understand the challenges of selecting these national entities?
- ? Have you developed specific or additional measures since the GEF5 and GEF6 umbrella projects?

Agency Response

18.02.2022

Coordination: Discussions were conducted with GM and UNCCD secretariat on synergy and complementarity with all the global projects. The GM has committed to ensuring regular updates and creating conditions for a synergetic approach.

Safeguard:

- Criteria for signing an agreement with national entities: Good to note that the National Executing entity is designated by the Government through the GEF operational

Focal Point in the LoE. As UN Entity UNEP is bound to work with the entity and if necessary the agreement will include the capacity building of the entity. For those Executing Entities that are not government departments, UNEP follows the due diligence process to clear the Executing entity before signing the SSFA.

- The Due diligence process mentioned above include financial and technical capabilities assessment using the experience of the entity in executing a similar project and handling financial resources including the annual audits of the entity
- The lessons learned from GEF5 and GEF 6 in the choice of Executing entities are related to technical and financial reporting to UNEP and accessing the funds after the GEF secretariat approval. On the reporting, even though the majority of the countries (more than 60%) reports regularly after completion of the EA, some countries reported partially, and other are still not submitted reports despite regular reminders. The reasons are mainly staff turnover reflected by a situation whereby the current focal point does not have a background from the previous EA management.
- Specific additional measures developed are of two holds: first, in the UNEP fiducial standards, countries or entities who have not fulfilled their reporting obligation are included in the list of those who can not access any funding from any sources from UNEP until the reporting obligation are fulfilled. The second measure is related to those countries that have not come to access funding approved by GEF for more than a cycle. In that case, UNEP has been contacting some regional entities like the Observatory of Sahara and Sahel (OSS for Seychelles, Libya, and Sudan) to help those countries use the available resources for EA-related activities like NAP alignment, LDN related activities.

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request No.

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes, 20 LoE are available.

Agency Response

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment NA

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

February 18, 2022

Addressed.

December 15, 2022

See the first comment in the cell 1 (this comment is formulated after an intervention from the US Council Member at the last Council who highlighted the fact that LDN targets were voluntary and not mandatory.

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

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 4, 2022

Addressed. The CEO approval is recommended.

March 3, 2022

See the comment from the Control Quality below. Upon receipt of a revised package, the project will be recommended for approval.

- There is a 4\$ difference between the budget provided in Annex E and Table B. Please request the agency to harmonize so that all budget tables match.

	5599	Sub-total	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
5999		Component total	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000	50,000
99		GRAND TOTAL	1,826,480	127,854	1,954,334	1,408,787	495,547	50,000	1,954,334

Project Component	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
To enhance national-level institutional and technical capacities for the 2021-2022 UNCCD reporting process in the context of the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and SDG15.3	1.1. National level enabling conditions for reporting are established to advance UNCCD	Output 1.1.1 Trainings conducted at national level by GEF-eligible countries for the	1,826,484.00	

February 25, 2022

All points are addressed. The CEO approval is recommended.

February 18, 2022

Please, check the item 1 and the budget in the cell related to cost effectiveness.

December 15, 2022

Not yet. Please, address the comments above.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	12/15/2021	2/18/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/18/2022	2/25/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/25/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations