

National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Cameroon

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10440

Countries

Cameroon

Project Name

National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Cameroon

Agencies

UNIDO

Date received by PM

11/14/2019

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes. The enabling activity is aligned with Objective CW-EA under the GEF-7 Programming Directions. In addition,

1) Paragraph I.4 of Appendix I of document “Guidance to the Global Environment Facility on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities, eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources and on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund” (UNEP/MC/COP.1/8) states that: "Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is

taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.”

Cameroon became a Signatory to the Minamata Convention on 24 September 2014. A letter dated 07 June 2019 from Mr. Pierre Hele, Minister of the Environment and the Protection of Nature of Cameroon, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, describes the meaningful steps undertaken by Cameroon towards becoming a Party to the Minamata Convention.

This letter is available for consideration by the Secretariat of the GEF as an attachment to the submitted project.

2) Minister Pierre Hele notified the Secretariat of Minamata Convention that Cameroon has determined that Artisanal Gold Mining in Cameroon is "more than significant", according to Article 7, Para 3 of the Convention.

Agency Response

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

Agency Response

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes. The enabling activity will receive co-financing amounting to \$58,500 as recurrent expenditures from the government (\$12,000, in-kind), UNIDO (\$17,250 in cash and \$17,250 in-kind) and UNITAR (\$12,000, in-kind).

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

Agency Response

**Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: The enabling activity will be funded from resources allocated to "Enabling Activities Minamata" in the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area.

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

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

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

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

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: The enabling activity will be funded from resources allocated to "Enabling Activities Minamata" in the Chemicals and Waste Focal Area.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

Agency Response

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

[Note] Expected date on the report submission to Convention is 1 August 2022. According to Article 7, Para 3 of the Minamata Convention, "the Party shall submit its national action plan to the Secretariat no later than three years after entry into force of the Convention for it or three years after the notification to the Secretariat, whichever is later". Cameroon notified to the Secretariat on 30 January 2019, while the Convention has not yet entered into force for Cameroon. Therefore, the expected date for submitting the report is eligible.

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/19/19: Not yet. Very little information on stakeholders.

Please provide the list on the names of stakeholders and their responsibility in a table format.

AS Feb 19, 2020 - Comment cleared.

Agency Response The name of the stakeholders and their responsibility has been added in a table format as advised.

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/19/19: Not yet. Very little information on gender issues. Please provide the gender analysis relevant to the project based on existing data and information in Cameroon.

AS Feb 19, 2020 - Comment cleared

Agency Response The available background information on gender-issues in ASGM in the country has been added under Section A. However, there is a substantial lack of data in the sector that will be targeted throughout the project implementation. After consultations with the national counterparts, potential partners to work in gender-related issues have been identified in the country and listed under Section B in order to tackle the lack of information and the gender mainstreaming activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Not yet.

1) In part II. B states that "UNITAR will act an executing agency assisting with day-to-day management and providing technical expertise for the development of all relevant areas under the project. A project management unit will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, concretely within the department responsible of the Minamata Convention responsible of the project coordination as well as taking care of the 'day-to-day' management and monitoring."

Since this is a capacity building project for the government, it's hard to find an exceptional case where the UN organizations will provide executing services for the project. In this regard, please justify UNITAR's role in this project and revise the languages relevant to executing functions of the project accordingly.

2) Annex B: Project execution arrangement: From the same reason, please revise the Project Execution box appropriately.

3) Ministry of Mines, Industries and Technological Development (MINMIDT) is listed as Executing Agencies in Annex B. Please consider adding MINMIDT to Part I/ Other Executing Partner(s) in the Portal and revise the languages introducing MINMIDT in Part II/B accordingly.

4) Annex A (GEF grant and co-financing table by project component (USD): Subtotal outcome 1+2+3 of co-financing should be revised form 53,500 to 46,000, and subtotal outcome 1+2+3 of total should be revised from 508,500 to 501,000. Please fix them.

AS Feb 19, 2020 - Comments addressed.

Agency Response

1) The project will be executed by national governmental entities, namely the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), the Ministry of Mines, Industries and Technological Development (MINMIDT) and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE). In this sense, Section B of the project document, the budget of the project (Annex A), the project execution arrangements (Annex B) and the project results framework (Annex C) have been revised accordingly.

2) Annex B has been revised and amended.

3) All the Executing Agencies have been listed in the Portal.

4) Amounts in Annex A have been revised and amended.

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

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 PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/18/19: Yes. The enabling activity is endorsed by the OFP for Cameroon, Dr. Haman UNUSA in the letter submitted to the Agency.

Agency Response

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

AT, 11/19/19: Not at this time. Please address all comments stated above.

AS Feb 19, 2020 - Comments have been addressed. The project is being recommended for CEO approval.

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement

Response to Secretariat comments

First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

The Minamata Convention on Mercury controls the use of mercury. Article 7 of the Convention controls the use of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. Parties to the Convention that have artisanal and small-scale gold mining in their territories that uses mercury, on determining that there is a more than insignificant use of mercury in the sector can notify the Convention of this use. Once a Party notifies such use it is required to undertake the development of a national action plan which sets out the action plan the Party will implement to phase out of mercury in the sector. These national action plans are enabling activities under the Convention and are a requirement for the financial mechanism to fund.

The Government of Cameroon has ratified the convention and made a notification under Article 7; therefore, it is eligible for funding for the development of a national action plan for the ASGM sector.

This project has been reviewed and follows GEF policy and is consistent with the requirements set out in the Minamata Convention and the GEF 7 CW programming directions. The project on completion will both allow the Government of Cameroon to fulfill its obligations as a Party to the Minamata Convention and to act to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of mercury in its ASGM sector.