

Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11821

Countries

Global (Albania, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Liberia, Maldives, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Panama)

Project Name

Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

10/16/2024

Review completed by PM

1/17/2025

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

4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes

Agency's Comments

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

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 Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes. However, please ensure that the project monitors and regularly reports on gender-specific results/gender dimensions of the project.

17 January 2025 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

Agency response ? 02 December 2024

Noted. Relevant text to that effect was added in Sections C & D

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 Inclusion4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments 4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

Rio Markers.

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

Secretariat's Comments 4 November 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

4 November 2024 (ahume): No.

- 1) The Ecuador OFP name in their LOE is inconsistent with the OFP name currently on file on the GEF website. Please provide a new LOE with the the current Ecuador OFP.
- 2) Several of the LOEs do not contain the footnote noting that a capacity assessment will be carries out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate. This footnote must be included with the LOE.
- 3) Please ensure the identified executing partners in the LOEs are consistent with the EA proposal.

11 January 2025 (ahume): Morocco has been included in the resubmission but the country has also signed a LOE to request BBNJ EA support with FAO. The Morocco OFP has since stated their preference to proceed with the FAO request. Please remove Morocco from this project.

29 January 2025 (ahume): Please address the following:

1. Project title in the GEF Portal differs from the one in each of the available LOEs. Please request the agency to amend in portal to reflect the title in the LOEs.

GEF Portal: ?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)?

LEOs: ?Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)?

2 On the Letters of Endorsement:

2a. Mozambique: We could not find the LOE, only a letter of EOI. Please request the agency to upload the valid LOE for Mozambique.

2b. Costa Rica: The LOE mentions that the executing agency will be determined. Please request the agency to include this information once it is available.

2c. Cook Islands: the LOE is missing information in the table regarding ?Sources of Funds?, ?GEF Agency? and ?Focal Area Source?. Please request the agency to obtain a complete LOE.

6 February 2025 (ahume):

1) Addressed.

2a) Not addressed. The Mozambique LOE that is uploaded in the Portal and linked in the online EA document is the letter of intent, not the LOE. Please double check that the Mozambique LOE is correctly uploaded and link in the Portal.

2b) Addressed.

2c) Addressed.

7 February 2025 (ahume): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

Agency response ? 02 December 2024

- 1) A new LoE has been re-issued by the new Ecuador OFP. Cambodia also re-issued a new LoE which includes the footnote.
- 2) At the exception of Cambodia and Nigeria which re-issued a new LoE with the footnote, all other countries opted to send a no objection email on the use of the footnote (see attached file with no-objections from Cook Islands, Seychelles, Liberia, Panama & Maldives)
- 3) The Congo DR did not issue a new LoE nor did it confirm its agreement on the use of the footnote. Congo DR was therefore removed from the submission and substituted with Morocco.
- 4) The EAs in the MSP SECTION 1: Enabling Activity Summary have been aligned with the LoEs. The entries in the portal have been verified accordingly too. The revised MSP is appended in the road map. In the case of Maldives, the OFP mentioned that UNEP would also support them in the execution. As per GEF guidance, while the national ministries will be the EA, UNEP will definitely provide backstopping support in its capacity as IA but will not act as EA per se. In that context, no new LoEs were requested.

Agency response ? 13 January 2025

M Morocco has been removed and substituted with Albania.

Agency response ? 05 Feb. 2025

1. The **Project title** in the GEF Portal has been adjusted to reflect the text in the LOEs. Therefore, the title in the MSP document in the road map also had to be amended to reflect the text in the LoE. It now reads "Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)". The FAO and UNDP submission of the same might therefore be slightly different.
2. **On the Letters of Endorsement:**

2a. Mozambique: the LOE and the letter of intent were both in the road map.

Mozambique BB NJ LoE	Project Supporting Document	OFP's Letter of Endor sement - [Country na me]	GEF Secretariat Use Only	10/14/2024 7:53 PM
Mozambique Letter of Intent	Project Supporting Document	Others	GEF Secretariat Use Only	10/14/2024 8:16 PM

2b. Costa Rica: Indeed, the LOE mentions that the executing agency is to be determined and this will be amended once confirmed.

2c. Cook Islands: a new LoE has been uploaded

Agency response ? 06 Feb. 2025

2a) The Mozambique LOE has been re-uploaded both in the portal per se in Part II section A with the record of endorsement and in the road map.

Response to Comments

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

Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

17 January 2025 (ahume): Yes.

Agency's Comments

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

Agency's Comments

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): N/A

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

4 November 2024 (ahume): No. Please use the updated common budget template that was provided by GEF Sec.

29 January 2025 (ahume): Partly addressed. Common budget BBNJ umbrella EA budget has been presented. However, please note that there is a duplicate table in the CEO Endorsement Request PDF (which is the document that is circulated to Council and later web posted). Please remove the table pasted in the field for comments in the portal and only leave the uploaded document.

7 February 2025 (ahume): Addressed

Agency's Comments

Agency response ? 02 December 2024

While the first submission was made on the basis of budget template commonly prepared by the 3 IAs following feedback received on the FAO's first submission, a revised budget incorporating further comments received on the UNDP resubmission has been prepared and is appended to this resubmission both in the portal and road map.

Agency response ? 05 Feb. 2025

The common budget BBNJ umbrella EA budget the table pasted in the field for comments in the portal has been removed. The budget is only left as an uploaded document.

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

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

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): Agency (UNEP) has checked box saying ESS screening is not required per Agency's regulations.

Agency's Comments

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION.

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

4 November 2024 (ahume): No. Please address the above and resubmit.

11 January 2025 (ahume): Project is being returned to the Agency to remove Morocco. A full review of the project will be completed with the next resubmission.

29 January 2025 (ahume): Please address two small comments above on LOEs and budget presentation and resubmit.

7 February 2025 (ahume): The project is recommended for CEO Approval

REVIEW DATE(S)**Secretariat Comment at CEO
Endorsement****Response to Secretariat
comments**

First Review	11/4/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/11/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/29/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/6/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/7/2025	