



Climate Change Adaptation in Lowlands of Lao PDR

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11399

Countries

Lao PDR

Project Name

Climate Change Adaptation in Lowlands of Lao PDR

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

10/18/2023

Review completed by PM

11/27/2023

Program Manager

Tshewang Dorji

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

11/30/2023, GEFSEC: Cleared with thanks.

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: The "Executing Agency Type" is maintained as "Government", while "Executing Partner" is expected to be defined during the PPG. Since executing agency is expected to be determined during the PPG, please remove "Government". Please amend.

10/26/2023, GEFSEC:

a) Yes

b) The Letter of Endorsement does not include a particular Executing Partner ? instead, it says ?to be determined?. However, in Portal the executing partner is the ?MONRE?s Department of Planning and Cooperation, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Environment?, which is not included in the LoE. Please remove the MONRE?s Department of Planning and Cooperation, Department of Water Resources, and Department of Environment because it is not endorsed by the Government (they can be included later during the preparation phase as needed).

Agency's Comments

Executing Agency Type is now changed to "Others", as the portal does not allow it to be left empty.

Name of proposed executing agencies have been removed from the first page. The intention is to have the government lead the execution but pending further assessment during PPG but proposed execution role is described in project description.

2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared. However, the strategy to deliver adaptation benefits can be further improved by renewing focus on empowering local communities, especially under the component 1. This can be explored during PPG phase.

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please address the following

1. Flooding is highlighted as the main climate hazard that the project intend to address its impacts. Drought is also mentioned as potential climate hazard. However, it needs further articulation on how ?increased wet season flood? is resulting in greater ?hydrological drought?.
2. The objective of the project could be simplified further to highlight the main intention of the project.
3. Under the Interventions:

Output 1.1.1: Flood and Climate-risk mapping. Understand the utility of flood mapping. But, would be useful to understand what will cover under climate-risk mapping?. In addition, the expected result figure on # of direct beneficiary doesn?t match with the demographic profile of the project site. Please clarity

Agency's Comments

Project summary revised.

Objective has been simplified to read: To strengthen the resilience of agricultural livelihoods in low land communities in Lao PDR to climate change.

Outputs have been revised. Please also see response to review question 3. On beneficiary numbers please see response to review question 5.4 a.

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please address the following

a) Objective is generally clear, but this can be further simplified as mentioned above under section 2

b) Component 1: There seems to number of national level policy in the form of NDC, National Climate Change strategy, 9th National Socio-economic Development Plan etc. The PIF gives an impression that these national policies and strategies lack effective and meaningful implementation at the local level. As the project is intended to be implemented in the 4 district and promote community-led action, it might be useful to revise the components, especially component 1 to this effect.

Output 1.1.1: Suggest prioritizing flood risk mapping. Unless it is clear about what other ?climate risk? becomes clear, suggest removing it and focus on the flood alone. In addition, para 6 of the page 9/42 of the PIF mentions that Flood hazard mapping has been identified for eight river basins. How is such information relevant or useful for this output?. Please consider avoiding duplication of efforts, but build synergies with ongoing/previous intervention.

Output 1.1.2: Clarify at what level will be the intervention focus on?. Suggest to focus at the local and community level planning and institutional capacity building

Output 1.1.3: Unless the assessment is expected to provide insights on the updated needs, it might be best to use the resources to strategize for addressing the needs, instead of additional exercise to determine the finance need. Also, It was noted that there already exists some figure on finance need under NDC etc, although it could be at much coarser resolution.

Component 2: Good that there will be investment for actual implementation of the activities. Please see, if some resources from the component 1 can be allocate to this component, as it involves actual on-the-ground implementation of activities.

Component 3: Please populate M&E aspects into the table

Also, it was noted that field level activities will be designed based on the criteria for specific sites. Since this proposal is for addressing the impacts of climate change, kindly

use sensitivity, exposure and adaptive capacity of the community and ecosystem (not just wetland) as the main criteria, in addition to community and government priority.

Agency's Comments

a) Please see response to review question 2.

b) This component aims to address barriers in translating development plans into actionable measures at local level. Specifically, as stated in Section B Para 37 the project aims to support implementation at the local level five adaptation targets outlined by the government of Lao PDR in its most recent NDC.

Output 1.1.1 ? In section A, a range of observed and future climate change risks are highlighted as important for agricultural livelihoods in Lao PDR and the target regions. The specific and cumulative risks of hazards including flood, drought, changes in growing season conditions and moderate extremes will be assessed under this output. The flood hazard mapping in eight river basins was a rapid assessment and is considered as relevant baseline information that needs to be expanded upon under this project.

Output 1.1.2: Will focus on linkages across national entities as well as vertical linkages at province and district level.

Output 1.1.3: Thanks for the suggestion. This output has been reframed to focus on finance modalities rather than needs. This reframing is more likely to address the barrier as described in the barriers section. Specifically, the output will identify modalities and public-private and social partnerships to facilitate investment in priority lowland adaptation options.

Component 2: Resources have been moved from Component 1 to Component 2.

Component 3: Thanks for these suggestions. These dimensions have been added.

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Thanks for presenting country level information on the disproportionate impacts on women and children. A detailed analysis will be required at the later dates with allocation of budget.

Also, please ensure that Gender dimensions are reflected in Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and Outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 3.1

Agency's Comments Output descriptions have been adjusted to reflect gender dimensions.

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC:

a) Suggest to adjust funding allocation as commented above (3.1)

b) On the PMC Proportionality: there is no proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 4.95%, for a co-financing of \$19,500,000 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$975,000 instead of \$500,000 (which is 2.5%). As the costs associated with the project management must be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion. A more definitive estimation of PMC could be presented and adjusted at CEO Endorsement stage.

In addition, please complete the source of co-financing for KOIKA - \$8,000,000

Agency's Comments

The cofinance for PMC has been amended.

The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOIKA) and FAO are discussing a project entitled "More Efficient, Carbon Neutral and Resilient Agriculture, Rural Development and Water Resources Management" that includes Champasak as a target province" for the amount mentioned.

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

11/30/2023, GEFSEC: Cleared with thanks.

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thanks for updating information on the current climate hazard. In an effort to ensure that intervention are robust for future climate scenarios and to avoid maladaptation, a short description on an additional optimistic emission scenarios would be useful. This description could be based on the existing national documents such as National Communications. Please submit

Also, please ensure that reference to figure #3 matches with description section

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please address the following

a) Socio-economic and contextual driver is presented well. Additional information on the following will be useful:

Observed Climate change: On the observed temperature and precipitation change, it would be very useful, if the information on the past temperature and precipitation record can be included for the target area, if available.

Similarly, Flood and drought record in the target area would be useful, if available. Currently, country level information is presented in para 6 and 7 of the PIF page 9-10.

Climate projections: Encouraged to present additional scenario such as SSP 126 or SSP245, given that it might be possible that scenarios could end up between SSP5 and SSP1.

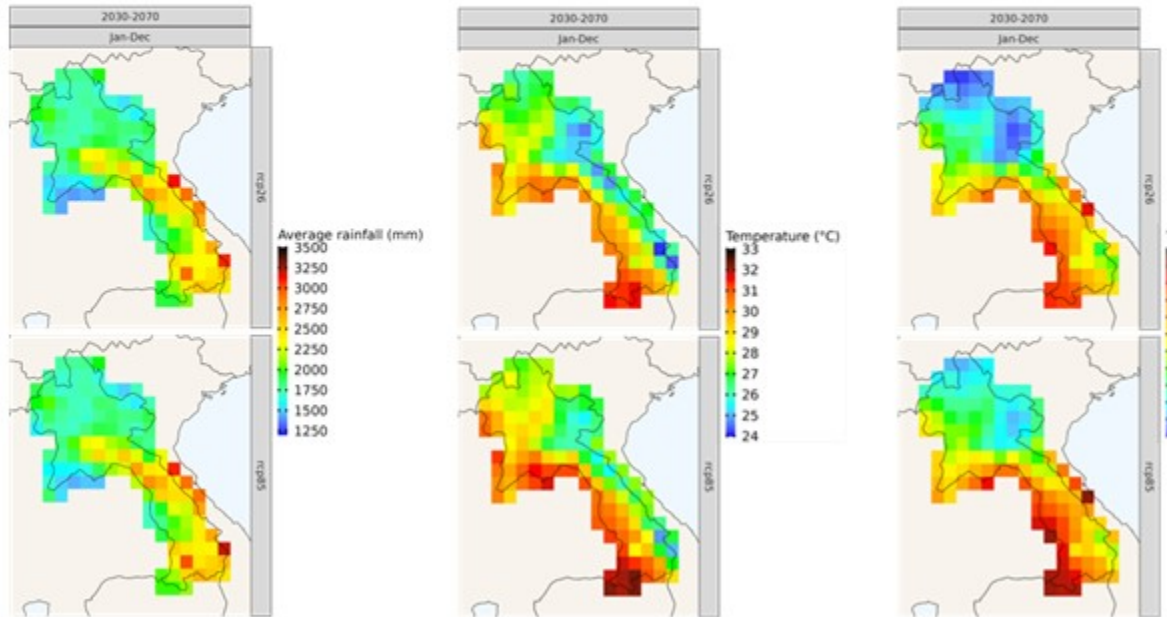
Timeframe of the projection: For the purpose of this project, the timeframe of the projection would be from current to 2069.

While information on the wetland is useful, this proposal needs to be contextualized from the perspective of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change

Agency's Comments

The following has been added to the PIF.

Analysis for projected future (2030–2070) periods under RCP 2.6 and RCP 8.5 scenario using the ensemble mean of CORDEX-CORE simulations derived using the FAO CAVA tool platform, indicate that average rainfall is projected to be lower than the historical average under both scenarios. Minimum and maximum temperatures are projected moderate slightly.



Observed climate change:

New figures and analysis have been added on:

- Average annual rainfall and minimum temperature
- Precipitation and temperature anomaly
- Flood (standing water anomaly)
- Drought frequency

Climate projections:

This is noted. Additional analysis using CORDEX-CORE simulations will be prepared during the PPG using the FAO [CAVA](#) tool.

Timeframe: This is noted.

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared.

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Much thanks for proposal to build on the lessons learnt from CAWA and SAMIS project. Need further details on

a) Why the project approaches are selected

Also, the PIF has referenced number of figures and graphs. Those are missing in the main document. Please revise and submit.

Agency's Comments

The figures have been uploaded as part of the submission.

FAO projects have to be screened against relevance, feasibility and sustainability, including environmental and social safeguards.

As noted in the PIF, the relevance for the project approach is based on the need of the country, including in policies but also through stakeholder consultations, past lessons learnt from LDCF and other adaptation projects, as well as the match with LDCF strategy. The project also attempts to complement ongoing investments and avoid duplication. Feasibility is also based on tailoring priority actions based on resources available ? both cofinance and |LDCF funding. On sustainability, avoiding, minimizing and mitigating risks are a strong part of the project design, as well as building capacities of stakeholders to sustain and expand project actions. The PIF preparation also considered |STAP

guidance for LDCF projects and this will be further expanded during full proposal development.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

- a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?**
- b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?**

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please address the following

- a) The ToC need to revise and include a schematic diagram that illustrate various elements and causal linkages.

The key assumption relating to **willingness** and the capacity of government at different levels?? is bit troubling. Unless, government owns the project, durability and of such intervention becomes tricky. Therefore, kindly ensure full support and ownership of the government and the community in the target area through stakeholder consultation and other means.

- b) Yes, but as mentioned above, need some clarification on why certain outputs are chosen.

Agency's Comments

The TOC diagram showing linkages across project components has been uploaded. The assumptions regarding government engagement have been reworded.

Thanks for the suggestions. Additional, information has been added in Section B.

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) Is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please address the following

a) Please provide further clarity on the implementation framework, including explanation on choice of executing partners.

c) Also, please ensure that there is close coordination with ongoing GEF-7 projects and also with GCF, if any, as to avoid duplication of efforts.

Agency's Comments Tentative Implementation arrangements has been added.

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared. However, please explore ways to improve the result figures during the PPG phase,

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please clarify

a) The core indicator figure, on # of direct beneficiary doesn't match with population in the target area.

Agency's Comments As noted in the core indicator table the number of estimated direct beneficiaries is 138,000 (50%) women. This number is calculated assuming 50 % of the target district population (rural and urban) able to access improved last mile services. This number subsumes direct beneficiary numbers across other sub-indicator categories. i.e. the 43,000 beneficiaries identified under sub-indicator 1.1 will also benefit from improved last mile services.

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?

b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared with the understanding that the project will contribute towards preparation of NAPs

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes, but curious on how it is aligning with ongoing discussion under preparation of NAPs

Agency's Comments The project will support implementation of the NAP and be coordinated with the implementation of the UNEP-LDCF project "Building the Capacity of the Lao PDR Government to Advance the National Adaptation Planning Process".

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Thank you. Cleared

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Please provide details on the list and dates of the consultation. In addition, some indicative information on stakeholder engagement and consultations during project development, including local communities, will be

appreciated.

Agency's Comments An overview of consultations to develop the project is provided in the table in Section D of the PIF.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments m/a

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country? (ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments 10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

11/27/2023, GEFSEC: Not yet. Need to address comments under section 1 & 4.1

10/26/2023, GEFSEC: Not yet. Need to address these comment and other anticipated comments on policy aspects

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments 11/27/2023: Please address comment under section 2 and 5.4

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	10/26/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/27/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/30/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		