

# Landscape restoration for increase resilience in urban and peri-urban areas of Bujumbura

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10099

**Countries**

Burundi

**Project Name**

Landscape restoration for increase resilience in urban and peri-urban areas of Bujumbura

**Agencies**

UNDP

**Date received by PM**

12/23/2022

**Review completed by PM**

4/18/2023

**Program Manager**

Aloke Barnwal

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

FSP

**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**

Please address the following. The project aims to deliver on CCA-3 objective. This objective is linked with NAP related support to countries. Please see corresponding outcomes in the core indicators template. Given that NAP support is not a focus of the project, please change this to CCA-2 objective and relevant indicators under outcome 2.3.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

**Agency Response**

**UNDP, 11 April 2023.** This has been revised accordingly, the CCA-2 objective is now used instead of the CCA-3 objective. The following changes have been made: (1) in the LDCF Core Indicators worksheet, indicators have been move from outcome 3.3 to outcome 2.3; and (2) in the CEO endorsement document, under Table A focal/Non-focal area elements, CCA-3 has been replaced by CCA-2, (3) in the PRODOC on page 33, under section Alignment with GEF focal areas, CCA-3 has been replaced by CCA-2.

**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 Yes.

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

The period of Burundi - Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project is mentioned as 2018-2023 in the project document under baseline scenario section. Given that the project will begin operations in 2023, this project may not co-finance this project. Please review.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks for confirming.

Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** UNDP received confirmation that the project has been extended to 2024 (this information was not reflected in some sections of the documents, which still showed the project as ending in 2023). The project remains appropriate as co-finance to the LDCF intervention and dates have been changed accordingly in the PRODOC and the CEO endorsement. The project team indicated that a further extension may be proposed beyond 2024.

**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 Yes.

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 Yes.

Agency Response

**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

There is a significant reduction in core indicator 2. The document says that because it's difficult to monitor, the target is reduced. This rationale is not very intuitive for such a drastic reduction in this target. It seems that the project will have more benefit but can't be reported. The project may include measures to enable better monitoring of interventions across the target watersheds and perhaps increase this core indicator.

Please refer to the above comment regarding results under Objective 3. This could be revised to outcomes under Objective 2, outcome 2.3.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

UNDP, 11 April 2023. Core indicator 2 has been revised, reverting back to the methodology proposed at PIF stage. The project will aim to ensure that 70% of the total watershed area (estimated at 12,829 ha) is made more resilient, corresponding to target of 8,980 ha for Core Indicator 2. At PIF stage, the project expected a target of 10,200 ha (80% of the total watershed area). The difference is due to an increase in the flood control infrastructure from 1,5 km at PIF stage to 2,5km and the need to concentrate the project sites to fewer *collines* for greater impact.

The LDCF Core Indicator worksheet and the CEO Endorsement request have been revised to reflect the target change.

**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

A significant portion of the project will be used to finance flood control and erosion measures and infrastructure. Two comments related to this:

- the climate risk analysis indicates significant increase in drought like conditions. Therefore, the project should consider measures that can address droughts also.
- the root causes and barriers primarily refer to lack of capacity and knowledge. It doesn't mention lack of adaptation infrastructure solutions to address climate vulnerabilities even though majority of LDCF resources are used for this.

Please elaborate and modify accordingly.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

## Agency Response

UNDP, 11 April 2023.

- This is correct and the proposed EBA techniques under component 2 also aim to protect the watershed against drought conditions. This is specified under para 108 page 43 of the PRODOC. In addition, the project proposes, under activity 1.1.2, to ensure that droughts are integrated into the MyDEWETRA platform, the real-time system for hydro-meteorological forecasting and monitoring (para 89, page 39). The project will ensure that drought-like conditions are therefore considered in planning and decision-making, also guiding watershed investments decisions taking into account drought-related risk factors.

- This is an important barrier and the lack of adaptation infrastructure solutions was central to the government's decision to request this LDCF intervention. The barriers have been revised accordingly. Barrier 2 now specifically mentions the lack of adaptation infrastructures (barriers section of the CEO ER and para 48 on page 22 of the PRODOC).

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

## 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

Please refer to the comment above. The project may benefit from additional measures that can enhance resilience of communities from increased droughts in the region.

The Theory of Change is simply a diagrammatic representation of the project components and outcomes and outputs. The Agency is requested to follow STAP's guidance on TOC and develop a more simplistic theory of change outlining the pathway of change in simple language.

The Outcome 1 on climate risk modelling capacity is very useful. However, it is not clear which institutions capacity will be improved and how will it be sustained beyond the project life.

Under outcome 3, please provide some examples of green and adaptation entrepreneurship examples where private sector will be engaged.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks for addressing the comments. These are cleared now.

#### Agency Response

UNDP, 11 April 2023

- See previous response regarding drought measures proposed by the project.
- A new Theory of Change diagram has been developed based on the TOC prepared at PIF stage, outlining the pathway of change following the STAP's guidance on TOC. See TOC in the CEO ER and on page 30 of the PRODOC.
- The documents have been revised to present the institutions benefiting from the capacity building proposed by the project. Further details and how the sustainability of the system will be ensured. In addition, the project team will assist the government in getting support from the newly established WMO Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to supplement investment in the climate information system and importantly unlock performance-based payment option for network maintenance. See description of Outcome 1 and Sustainability section of the CEO ER, Para 80 page 37 and Para 87 page 37 of the PRODOC.
- Examples of green and adaptation entrepreneurship related to food preservation and food transformation opportunities have been included in the documents. See Outcome 3 of the CEO ER and para 141, page 50 of the PRODOC).

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

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please revise the alignment with CCA 2 instead of CCA 3, which is specifically for NAP related activities.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023- Thanks. Comment cleared.

#### Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** See previous response on CCA Core Indicators, changing from CCA-3 to CCA-2.

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

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Overall it's fine but please address comments related to addressing droughts which is a clear climate impact in the region.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023- thanks. Cleared.

#### Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** See previous response regarding drought measures proposed by the project.

**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

Please refer to the above comment. The section includes the following benefit " an additional 1,000 km of anti-erosion ditches and terraces and 2.5 km of flood control infrastructures along the Ntakangwa river in Bujumbura itself."

1000 Kms seem to be on very higher side for this project. Please double check. Also, include this indicator under the Other category of Output 1.1.1. Currently 3000 hectares is mentioned there which is a duplication of ha of land.

In this section, please also elaborate how the number of beneficiaries is estimated.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023- Thanks. Comment cleared.

#### Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** The figure of 1000 km of anti-erosion ditches and terraces is feasible for this project and was confirmed during the PPG. The figure is in line with previous targets for such measures in the previous LDCF investment in Burundi. The figure appears high because several layers of ditches and terraces are applied for each of the hill targeted, extending the overall length. A line has been added under output 1.1.1 to reflect this figure as a target.

Comment under Core Indicator 1 has been revised to elaborate how the number of beneficiaries has been estimated at PPG stage.

**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

Yes.

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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

Please add a summary of stakeholders who were engaged in the PPG phase.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.



## Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** The section on stakeholder engagement and south-south cooperation (Stakeholder engagement section of the CEO ERR and page 59 of the PRODOC) has been revised to include a summary of stakeholders who were engaged in the PPG phase.

Extensive stakeholder consultations were undertaken during the PPG process, with representatives of government, non-governmental organizations and bilateral development agencies at national, regional and local levels. These stakeholders included representatives from relevant ministries, departments, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and NGOs, and private sector. The Stakeholders consultations were conducted into three main phases as follows:

Phase 1: An inception workshop with all the representatives of different stakeholders groups was organized in Bujumbura in January 2022 followed by two specific workshops with CSOs and the private sector to gather their recommendations on the project.

Phase 2: Individual and group Meetings with key stakeholder representatives and experts consultations were conducted in Bujumbura in the follow up of the workshops. In addition, the consultant team was able to organize working group meetings with local representative in the project zone.

Phase 3: The preparation of baseline study and ESMP and GAP was developed through extensive stakeholder consultations such as :

- Community based consultations; Key informant interviews with local communities such as the elected members of the Hill, the councilors of the elected members of the Hill, the representatives of women, youth, craftsmen, men and the Batwa; focus groups;
- Expert consultations with government officials at national, provincial and communal, and colline levels and key stakeholders in the country across key sectors and, as well as donor community's representatives.?

## 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

Yes.

## 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

Yes.

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

In this section, please provide an analysis of COVID-19 related risks, mitigation measures and opportunities to support green and resilient recovery.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023: Thanks. No more comments.

Agency Response

**UNDP, 11 April 2023:** In addition to the description of the COVID-19 impact and opportunities for green and resilient recovery presented in the Project description, an additional risk related to COVID-19 has been added in the Risk section together with mitigation measures in the CEO ER. The COVID-19 risk was also identified as a risk in the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (Annex 6 of the Prodoc).

**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

Yes, thanks.

Agency Response

**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

Yes.

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  
Yes.

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  
Yes.

Agency Response  
**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  
Yes.

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  
Yes.

## Agency Response

### Annexes

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

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1. Please upload the UNDP project checklist as required for all UNDP projects. If uploaded, please indicate the file name.
2. Germany's comments have been addressed. However, it is not clear if STAP's comments have been factored in the project design.

GEFSEC April 18, 2023: Thanks. Comment cleared.

## Agency Response

UNDP, 11 April 2023:

1. The title of the document is **Burundi\_GEF\_Checklist\_for\_CEO\_endorsement\_-RBA\_Dec2022**. It was uploaded to the Roadmap section of the GEF portal on 22 Dec 2022.
2. STAP comments were taken into account during the PPG. Responses to specific STAP comments have been included in the relevant section of the CEO Endorsement request.

### Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

## Agency Response

### GEF Secretariat comments

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1. According to the CEO ER and the checklist, UNDP aims to carry out on specific executing function (?Financial support: direct payments; creation of vendor forms and managing vendor profiles; issuing cheques; monitoring, adjusting and reviewing financial transactions; and managing cash and bank accounts?) ? however, the letter of support (attached) has some missing requirements / issues that need to be amended: (i) it does not include a date of issuance; (ii) it lacks the signature of the OFP; (iii) it contains comments provided by UNDP; (iv) includes many more functions than the only one presented in the CEO ER and the checklist. Please amend the letter accordingly.

2. Gender: Please reflect gender perspectives in Component 2: Landscape restoration and

flood management measures, in particular, Output 2.2: Establishment of community-based anti-erosion measures and Output 2.3: Flood control measures. Please remind the Agency to use ?gender-responsive? instead of gender-sensitive when referring to approaches or activities that are intended to go beyond sensitization, awareness-raising or data. Gender-responsive refer to interventions that require taking actions towards an intended outcome (e.g., change in policies, regulations, decision-making processes; undertaking capacity-building and training, etc.).

#### Agency Response

##### **UNDP, 1 May 2023:**

1. The letter was a draft discussed with the government and was not signed at the time of first draft submission pending approval of direct payment as execution support. Pleased to confirm that it has been finalised and signed by the OFP, addressing the issues raised here (letter is dated and signed by the OFP, the UNDP comments have been removed, the text on direct payments matches that of the audit checklist). The functions mentioned in the letter are only operations required for the processing of direct payments themselves. A mention to indicate that the functions are related to direct payments has been added in the letter to avoid confusion).

2. Additional details and reflections were included under Component 2, specifically for Output 2.2 and 2.3 to provide more details on how gender will be addressed in conducting anti-erosion measures and infrastructures for flood protection drawing from the Gender Action Plan and Social and Environment Safeguard documents (See Component 2 in the CEO ER and page 44, 45 and 47 of the UNDP Prodoc). In addition, the terms gender-sensitive has been replaced by gender-responsive throughout the documents.

##### **Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

#### Agency Response

##### **STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

#### Agency Response

##### **Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

#### Agency Response

##### **Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response  
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response  
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Provided.

Please present detailed information of the use of PPG. This means that instead of presenting outputs (?formulation of the UNDP GEF Project Document), to present the expenditures / activities using the categories included in Table 1 ? page 10 in Guidelines

Agency Response  
**UNDP, 1 May 2023:**

More detailed breakdown of the PPG fund utilization status has been made in the relevant section of the CEO ER.

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided.

Agency Response  
**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 N A

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The Agency is requested to address the comments provided in the review sheet and resubmit the project.

Yes. The agency has addressed all the comments well and is recommended for CEO Endorsement.

25 April 2023

The project is returned to the agency to address additional comments from PPO. The comments are added in the GEF Secretariat comments and PPG utilization comments box in the review sheet above.

May 3, 2023

The Agency has addressed the comments from PPO. The agency execution function is recommended by PM. LDCF SCCF Manager's consent is requested. As PM- I recommend the proposal for CEO endorsement.

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>1/23/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/18/2023</b>	

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	4/25/2023	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	5/3/2023	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The project is recommended for CEO endorsement. The reasoning is below:

The Landscape Restoration for Increased Resilience in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas of Bujumbura LDCF project in Burundi aims to increase the resilience of watershed communities in and around Bujumbura through a resilient integrated watershed management for landscape restoration and flood management.

The project will address the vulnerability of urban and peri-urban communities of Bujumbura and the Ntahangwa watershed to the increased frequency of floods, droughts and landslides projected by climate models. It will achieve this through three components: (i) Developing technical capacities for climate-induced flood and erosion risks mapping and their use to inform climate-resilient integrated watershed management and other planning processes; (ii) Design and implementation of landscape restoration and flood management measures to protect communities in the Ntahangwa watershed and Bujumbura from flood and erosion risks; (iii) Livelihoods options and green entrepreneurship to increase resilience of the urban, peri-urban, and rural communities in the Ntahangwa watershed.

The project adopts a strong mix of climate science (e.g. climate modelling, climate information system and early warning systems), engagement of local communities in climate adaptation planning, strengthening systemic institutional capacity for climate adaptation, direct investment in urgent adaptation technological solutions and creating evidence (e.g. maps, projections, etc.) and knowledge for long term and sustainable action and results. It also goes beyond to strengthen adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable communities through alternate and resilient livelihood opportunities and innovative financing solutions including micro-finance to benefit the local communities.

Climate considerations are rarely included in the design of public infrastructures or land management in the country. At present, investments in resilient infrastructure are limited and recent floods, erosion and landslides are already impacting the country's economy with



increased incidents and deaths in period of floods as well as the destruction of homes, community structures, and public roads in Bujumbura and around. By strengthening landscapes in the Ntakangwa watershed, the project will contribute to increasing land productivity and resilience as well as restore ecosystem services in terms of erosion and flood control in the downstream part of the watershed, which is critical for Bujumbura, the economic powerhouse of the country. Flood control in Bujumbura is necessary along stretches of the Ntakangwa identified as high risk of landslide during periods of floods. The LDCF investment will ensure complementarity by adding climate considerations in the landscape approach and infrastructure development

The project will build on the previous LDCF intervention in the Ntakangwa watershed to increase the resilience of at least 128,050 people (51% women beneficiaries), while benefitting 8,980 ha of land under more sustainable and climate resilient land practices. The integrated watershed and flood management practices will ensure the increased resilience of both upstream highland communities and downstream lowland communities living in more urban areas through a comprehensive planning and management approach making use of climate information available in the country together with specific investments in landscape restoration, flood management measures and resilient livelihoods support. Landscape restoration in areas connected to Bujumbura will help restore flood-related ecosystem protection for both highland upstream communities and lowland urban communities with adaptive solution ranging from tree planting to watershed protection and reinforcement of riverbanks structures. To complement the restoration efforts, livelihood activities will promote green entrepreneurship and provide better access to markets (at this stage, the main sectors targeted are agriculture and agro-industry as well as the charcoal sector); thus connecting urban communities to peri-urban communities in the watershed. The agro-business sector will benefit from increasing the value of agricultural products and creating new investment opportunities. The urban focus of this project opens new doors to tap into the nascent startup ecosystems of Bujumbura while providing support for youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities. The project has factored in the COVID-19 related risks in the project and will directly contribute to green and resilient recovery by using ecosystem-based adaptation and green economy principles to create jobs, strengthen agricultural value chains and supply chains from urban and rural areas and rebuild Burundi's economy while addressing climate vulnerabilities and drivers of land degradation.