

Barbados - Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems (BATCRAS)

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID 11270 **Countries** Barbados **Project Name** Barbados - Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems (BATCRAS) **Agencies FAO** Date received by PM 4/12/2023 Review completed by PM 11/22/2023 **Program Manager** Ladu David Morris Lemi **Focal Area** Climate Change

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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/14/23:

Adjustment is requested.

In the General Project Information table, the "Region" for this project should not be "Barbados", as has been currently entered. It should be SIDS. Please correct this.

Climate Change Mitigation comment:

Please note section ?Project Sector (CCM Only)? applies only to the climate change mitigation (CCM) activities of the project. As such, please replace ?Climate Change Adaptation Sector? by the CCM sector/s applicable to the project, i.e., renewable energy and/or AFOLU (agriculture, forestry and other uses).

The region still indicates "Barbados" in the portal not Caribbean as stated below. Please update accordingly

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Thank you, noted.

In the cell for ?Region? in the General Project Information Table, ?Barbados? has been replaced with ?Caribbean?.

For ?Project Sector (CCM Only)??, renewable energy and AFOLU have been entered.

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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/14/23:

No. The project summary is missing. Please include this.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

The project summary has been included.

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
GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/14/23:

Not yet. Please see below:

- 1) The project objective is missing. Please also copy the objective provided on page 15 to this to the project overview component.
- 2) The wording of the sub-components mapped to GEF Trust Fund and the SCCF-A are identical. Please adjust the wording so that the GEF Trust Fund funded items refer to climate change mitigation/low-emissions, and the SCCF-A funded items refer to climate resilience. The SCCF-A funded components should not refer to GHG mitigation/low-emission etc.
- 2) The indicative project overview table includes a component mapped to SCCF-B. The entire SCCF funding amount should be mapped only to SCCF-A for this project. SCCF-A is the adaptation window for non-LDC SIDS. Kindly adjust.
- 3) The M&E section of the indicative project overview table needs to be split out across SCCF-A and GET. As mentioned above, kindly remove all reference to SCCF-B.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

- 1) The project objective has been included.
- 2) Noted. The project structure and wording of the components have been adjusted accordingly.
- 2) Okay. Any reference to SCCF-B has been removed.
- 3) Noted. The M&E section has been divided into one funded by the SCCF and one funded by the GEFTF.
- 3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Although there is indication of gender aspects under M&E, there is need to integrate gender dimension in component 1 and 2, especially under outputs 1.1.2, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2

Agency's Comments

20 November 2023

Well noted. The proposed project intends to mainstream gender considerations in all its components, and this has been more clearly articulated throughout the PIF. Furthermore, additional feedback from non-governmental stakeholders on gender aspects has been incorporated into the document.

- 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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/14/23:

- a) For adaptation, please see the comments pertaining to incorrect inclusion of SCCF-B above.
- b) Please remove any PMC mapped to SCCF-B.
- c) Please note that the ratio of the amount of PMC supported by the GEF, relative to the overall GEF grant, needs to be the same as the ratio of PMC contributed by the cofinance relative to the total cofinance, and within 5%.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

- a) Noted. Any reference to SCCF-B has been removed.
- b) Noted. PMC are no longer mapped to SCCF-B.
- c) Noted. The amount of PMC co-financing has been reduced to below 5% of the total amount of co-financing and aligned with the ratio between GEF-supported PMC and overall GEF project financing (4.76%).
- **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 GEFSEC November 09, 2023

- a) Yes
- b) Yes

Agency's Comments Not applicable 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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEFSec. 4/26/2023:

Climate change mitigation comment:

c) From the project proposal, it seems the mitigation approach would focus on nature-based solutions with high mitigation potential and the use of renewable energy technologies for food production. If this is the case for the later, please ensure coordination with UNDP-GEF project ID 10849 Barbados Sustainable Management and Resilient Thinking for our Energy Revolution (SMARTER).

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Thanks for the comment. There will definitely be coordination with the SMARTER project. A paragraph on this has been added to the section ?Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects?.

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
<u>GEFSEC November 21, 2023</u>

Cleared

4/26/2023:

Climate change mitigation comment:

- a) The ToC describes well the project logic. On the impacts, please link these to the core indicators of the project, i.e., GHG emissions mitigated or avoided, ha of land managed for climate resilience, etc.
- b) The project focus on private sector engagement is very much welcomed, including the on-going discussions with the Barbados Bankers Association. Outcome 2.2. ?Increased private sector engagement in climate-resilient and low-emission food production? has been tagged as investment. However, the capacity building and the framework activities expected under this outcome fit better under technical assistance rather than investment activities. Please disaggregate component 2 in investment and technical activities accordingly. The agency could also add a third component focus exclusively on private sector engagement.

Agency's Comments

- a) The target values for the core indicators of the project have been added to the ToC diagram. The lines have been inserted to demonstrate which sets of interventions contribute to the respective targets and how these are linked to the expected impacts.
- b) Thank you for the comment. The capacity-building and framework activities contributing to Outcome 2.2 are now labelled as Technical Assistance. Additionally, as part of the revision, the component type for the activities contributing to Outcome 2.1, Component 1 and the newly added Component 3 were changed from Investment to Technical Assistance to reflect the fact that the project will not involve large infrastructural investments and that FAO's core expertise lies in technical assistance. Your suggestion to add a third component focusing exclusively on private sector engagement is also noted. However, a third component has already been added as part of the required separation between adaptation- and mitigation-focused activities according to the funding source. Considering the size of the grant requested, it is preferred that the project entails no more than 4 components.

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

GEFSEC November 09, 2023

N/A

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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Not yet.

Please discuss, in the "Coordination & Cooperation" section, coordination with relevant GEF and non-GEF initiatives in Barbados. We note that elsewhere in the PIF, coordination with SOICARE and other FAO initiatives has been discussed, as well as with a GCF adaptation project. Please discuss these and any additional initiatives in the "Coordination & Cooperation" section.

a). Please provide information regarding execution arrangement that are already in place or to be establish, as well as the role of FAO in the project lifecycle.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

The paragraphs on baseline programs originally included under ?Project Rationale? were moved to the section ?Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects?. As requested in an earlier comment, additional information on coordination with other initiatives and projects has been included.

- 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
GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Adjustments are requested.

Climate change adaptation comments:

Meta-indicators:

- i) SCCF-B: Please change the meta-indicator to "false". All reference to SCCF-B funding should be removed from the PIF.
- ii) As the project will be supporting climate advisory services, please enter a % value for "climate information services" in the sector breakdown in the meta-indicators section.
- iii) Barbados being a SIDS, is there any target value to enter for CCA Core Indicator 2(b), i.e., on "Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)"? The value is currently set to zero.
- iv) Given the focus on engagement in resilience of local businesses, commercial banks and other private sector entities, would the Agency like to enter a value for CCA Core Indicator 5, i.e., "Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience"?

Climate Change Mitigation comments:

For CCM indicators only indicator 6.1. ?Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector? is being claimed. Emissions avoided under 6.1 have been estimated using EX-Ante tool. If available, please provide the excel sheet to track the calculation. Finally, under the project description section of the proposal, please elaborate further on the investments expected to contribute to carbon sequestration and/or emissions avoidance (this is only explained in page 29 under section C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities).

From the proposal, we understand the project also plans investments in renewable energy for good production. Kindly clarify whether this is correct and whether indicators 6.2 ?Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector? would also apply to the project. If so, please update the core indicators section accordingly.

On core indicator 11 ?People benefiting from GEF-financed investment?, the calculations have been made under the assumption that all Barbadians employed in agriculture will benefits from these climate products. Please consider revising these numbers by using a conservative factor to reflect the fact that not all people employed in the sector may end up using the suggested technologies/products.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

In reference to GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

i) Noted. The financing tables have been updated accordingly.

- ii) The percentage value for climate information services has been added to the sector breakdown in the relevant section.
- iii) Based on the outcome of the stakeholder consultations conducted, there was a preference for BATCRAS to focus on terrestrial forms of food production (open field agriculture, land-based aquaculture, soilless cultivation including hydro- and aquaponics). Therefore, coastal and marine affairs are not currently part of the proposed project and the core indicator expressed in ha is not applicable. However, the related sub-indicator 2.10 ?number of fishery or aquaculture ponds or cages? is relevant and could be used at the CER stage.
- iv) Yes. A target was added for this indicator.

In reference to 4/26/2023 CCM:

The FAO EX-ACT team has estimated the expected reduction of GHG emissions for the proposed project. The Excel spreadsheet detailing the calculations has been attached to the PIF. The paragraphs on the newly added Component 3 (low-emission, gender-sensitive food production) under ?Section B. Project description? now explain in detail through which interventions the GEF investment would contribute to carbon sequestration and avoidance of GHG emissions.

As outlined in these paragraphs, it is correct that investments in renewable energy technologies for more sustainable food production are being proposed. Accordingly, indicator 6.2 ?Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector? applies to the proposed project and the core indicators section has been updated to reflect this.

Regarding core indicator 11, please note that the target was changed to reflect a more conservative assumption (70% instead of 100%). Additionally, the value used for the calculation (estimated number of Barbadians employed in agriculture in 2019) was replaced with the current (2023) total of farmers registered in Barbados.

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

Secretariat's Comments
<u>GEFSEC November 10, 2023</u>

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

GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Further information is requested.

For the Climate Risks row in the Risks matrix, please briefly discuss the potential specific climate risks and how they could impact the project outputs and outcomes. Please then briefly outline the risk mitigation measures.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Noted. A description of the specific climate risks, their potential implications for the project outputs and outcomes, and additional risk mitigation measures have been included in the table.

- 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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

- a) Yes
- b) Yes
- c) 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
<u>GEFSEC November 21, 2023</u>

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Adjustment is requested.

Please ensure that the "Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies" section does not refer to alignment with SCCF-B or SCCF Priority Area 2.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Noted. Any reference to SCCF-B or SCCF Priority Area 2 has been removed.

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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Further information is requested.

i) Does the project align with any adaptation strategies for Barbados besides the intention captured in the NDC to combine adaptation and mitigation activities? Are there any national strategic documents that highlight the need to build resilience along the lines of this.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Please note that the proposed project?s alignment with the National Agriculture and Climate Change Policy, a key strategic document at the national level in the context of adaptation, is described at several points in the PIF. Beyond the NDC, references to five other strategic documents have been added to the section.

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

n/a

Agency's Comments 7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Yes

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments
GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Further information requested.

Climate change adaptation comment:

It is important for adaptation projects that civil society organizations and non-government organizations be consulted and actively engaged in project implementation. Please discuss/include any consultations that have taken place with these stakeholders.

Climate change mitigation comment:

In the list of stakeholders consulted, commercial banks are missing. Please clarify whether consultations with the Barbados Bankers Association had taken place and when.

17 November 2023

In reference to GEF Sec. 4/20/23:

The comment is well noted. Key non-governmental stakeholders such as members of the commodity groups under the umbrella of the Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS) have been involved in the consultation process. Furthermore, the draft PIF was shared with members of the Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (BANGO) for feedback. Comments from the Biocultural Education and Research Programme and the Secretary-General of BANGO were received on 11 October 2023 and incorporated into the PIF. More in-depth consultations with these stakeholders and other non-governmental/civil society organizations will take place at the post-PIF stage.

In reference to 4/26/2023 CCM:

As outlined in Section B, Barbados? Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security (MAFS), FAO?s main counterpart and the anticipated executing entity for the proposed project, is in continuous dialogue with The Barbados Bankers Association. The negotiations are ongoing, and the insights gained by the MAFS have informed the design of the proposed project. Therefore, FAO has not engaged in separate discussions with commercial banks at this stage.

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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

4/26/2023:

Climate change mitigation comment:

All STAR resources have been matched to CCM objective CCM-1-4 ?Promote Nature-based Solutions with high mitigation potential?. However, as per previous sections of the proposal it seems the proposal would also fit under CCM Objective CCM-1-2 ?Enable the transition to decarbonized power systems?. This is in line with previous comments on sub

core indicators 6.1 and 6.2. Please clarify, and if applicable disaggregate the STAR budget among CCM-1-4 and CCM-1-2.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

In line with the modifications made based on the previous comments, a share of the STAR resources can be tied to CCM Objective CCM-1-2 ?Enable the transition to decarbonized power systems?. The STAR budget was split between CCM-1-4 and CCM-1-2 according to the estimated costs of the respective activities. A thorough assessment to define the exact costs will be undertaken at the project document development stage.

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 09, 2023

CCM-1.2

CCM-1.4

CCA1.1

CCA2.1

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 09, 2023

N/A

Agency's Comments SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

GEFSEC November 09, 2023

Yes

Agency's Comments SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 10, 2023

N/A

Agency's Comments Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 10, 2023

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Yes

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
<u>GEFSEC November 21, 2023</u>

4/26/2023:

All co-financing identified at PIF is in-kind co-financing. Please elaborate further on the efforts made to raise further co-financing, particularly with regards to investment mobilized from private sector actors.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

FAO is currently implementing a technical cooperation project entitled ?Driving innovative financing and sustainable investments toward food system transformation and achieving SDGs in the Caribbean?, of which Barbados is a beneficiary. It runs from February 2023 to June 2025 and seeks to mobilize investment from public and private actors to support prioritized value chains and agribusiness development. FAO will link the interventions proposed under Output 2.2.2 to this project by fostering partnerships with private sector actors for investments in climate-resilient and low-emission agrifood systems. To obtain concrete commitments, focused bilateral meetings with pertinent private sector actors will be held at the project document development stage. A reference to this project has been included in the paragraphs on Outcome 2.2 in Section B.

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country?s(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 GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Yes. Please upload the LoE from the OFP.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

The LoE dated 17 July 2023 now accompanies the PIF submission.

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

Secretariat's Comments
GEFSEC November 10, 2023

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Yes

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Added as annex C

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
GEFSEC November 21, 2023

Cleared

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

Not yet. The uploaded ESS document should include a preliminary screening of potential risks to and from the project, including risks from climate change. The uploaded document does not present the full screening.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Noted. The document previously uploaded was replaced with the full screening of environmental and social risks.

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 10, 2023

Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments
GEFSEC November 10, 2023

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 GEFSEC November 10, 2023

n/a

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

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

Secretariat's Comments
<u>GEFSEC November 21, 2023</u>

Yes

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments GEFSEC November 21, 2023

All the GEF CCM STAR financing has been allocated to CCM-1-4 and none to CCM-1-2. However, some elements of the project would also fit under CCM Objective CCM-1-2 "Enable the transition to decarbonized power system". During CEO Endorsement stage, distribute the funds accordingly

GEF Sec, 4/20/23:

a) In the gender assessment and gender action plan, please ensure there is sound discussion of the various vulnerabilities, including to climate change impacts, faced by women at the project locations, and how the project intends to reduce these vulnerabilities and empower women.

Agency's Comments

17 November 2023

Well noted and understood. A few sentences stressing this have been added to the paragraph on gender-related efforts.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	11/10/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/21/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		