

# Strengthening engagement and action by the Least Developed Countries Group on climate change

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10994

**Countries**

Global

**Project Name**

Strengthening engagement and action by the Least Developed Countries  
Group on climate change

**Agencies**

UNIDO

**Date received by PM**

4/13/2022

**Review completed by PM**

6/7/2022

**Program Manager**

Tshewang Dorji

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

MSP

## CEO Approval Request

**Part I ? Project Information****1. Focal area elements. Is the project aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC 4/15/2022: Yes. Thank you

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:

1. Under the "Other Executing Partner(s)", please provide the name of the executing partner, as per the section 6 of this CEO Approval request;
2. Please provide more detail explanation about the firewall between the implementation and execution function as required in the Guidelines to the GEF Project Cycle Policy, assuming that UNIDO will be executing the project

GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Cleared. Thanks

GEFSEC, 6/8/2022: We noted that UNIDO ?with the support of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Climate Analytics? are shown as the Executing Partners. However, only UNIDO can be classified as GEF Agency. In absence of a ?type? that can embrace all three institutions, please select ?Others?.

GEFSEC, 6/8/2022: Cleared. Thanks

**Agency Response**

1. As requested, we have provided names for the executing partners under the ?Other Executing Partner(s). Please note that IIED and CA will support specific activities to be determined after the assessment at the inception phase.

2. Explanation about the firewall has been included in section "6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination"

Response to GEFSEC, 6/8/2022: Thank you. Executing Partner Type has now been adjusted to "Others".

**2. Project description summary. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
GEFSEC 4/15/2022: Please refer to question 3, Part II below.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: please refer to question 3, Part II below

GEFSEC, 6/7/2022: Cleared. Thanks

#### Agency Response

The components titles have been rephrased to better reflect the support of the project and the Group toward the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and as indicated the ultimate contribution towards "strengthening resilience to the impact of climate change in the LDCs".

Response to Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: relevant outputs under component 1, 2 and 3 include reference to adaptive capacity

**3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

#### Agency Response

**4. Co-financing. Are the confirmed 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, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Thank you for the co-financing support from the LDC Group and UNIDO. In the this CEO Approval request, it is mentioned that Climate Analytics (CA) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) would be involved in the implementation of some activities. It would be great, if some additional co-financing can be mobilized from CA and IIED, if possible.

Also, please ensure proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: Thank you for indicating that IIED will be providing co-financing. In this regard, kindly provide the following:

1. Submit co-financing letter signed by IIED
2. Change "Civil Society Organization" to "Others"

GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Cleared. Thanks

### Agency Response

IIED confirmed an in-kind contributions in the amount of US\$300,000. Their contribution corresponds to the activities that they are currently undertaken for the LDC Group, aligned with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the LDC Group, and the LDC Chair's work plan. IIED will primarily support the LDC Group in general and the LDC negotiators by providing on-demand and real-time legal, technical and strategic advice, analysis, and assistance to the Chair. Their team will support primarily activities under component 1 regarding the development and implementation of the LIFE-AR initiative, and component 2.

The co-financing letter will be shared at the next stage.

The contribution of Climate Analytics is already reflected in the co-funding of the LDC Group. Therefore, Climate Analytics will not provide any additional contribution.

### Response to Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:

1. After consideration, IIED informed us that they will not provide a co-financing letter to avoid double counting. They have compiled their list of activities and compared to what has already been submitted in the co-financing letter provided by the LDC Chair and realised that their letter would reflect a double counting of funding as the work under the MoU and LDC work plan that they support is already counted there.

2. Considering the above, the row related to IIED contribution has been deleted and the co-funding amount has been corrected.

**5. GEF resource availability. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022: Yes

Agency Response  
**STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022: Yes

Agency Response  
**SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response  
**Impact Program Incentive?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**6. Project Preparation Grant. If PPG is requested in Table E.1, has its advanced programming and utilized been accounted for in Annex C of the document?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**7. Non-Grant Instrument. If this an NGI, are the expected reflows indicated in Annex D?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**8. Core Indicators. Are the targeted core indicators in Table E calculated using the methodology in the prescribed guidelines? (GEF/C.54/Infxxx)**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC 4/15/2022. Please provide following clarification.

1. Core Indicator 1: Please provide the estimated figure on the total number of direct beneficiaries, including the percentage of women
2. Core Indicator 4: Please revise the percentage of female to ensure close to 50%
3. Under meta information, please specify "Other"

Update, GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: Thank you for revising share of female beneficiaries for Core Indicator 4. Kindly update the Core indicator figure as reflected in the paragraph 41 and other relevant areas of this CEO Approval request

Update, GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: The figure mentioned in paragraph 41 (7147) doesn't match with figure under the core indicator as well as paragraph 108. Please clarify

Update, GEFSEC, 6/7/2022: Please update the core indicator figures in the portal.

GEFSEC, 6/7/2022: Cleared with thanks

Agency Response

1. Core Indicator 1: since the project is under CCA3, the information regarding the beneficiaries has been provided under Core indicator 4 and core indicator 1 has been left empty.

2. Core Indicator 4: the percentage has been revised to 50% instead of 40% within the Core Indicator table, the logframe and the paragraph related to gender.

3. "Other": As there is no possibility provide specifications in this section, the information have been provided in the project description, in part 6 "Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) section , paragraph 107. The project will primarily support enabling activities such as planning process, institutional strengthening, capacity building, awareness raising, etc.

Response to update, GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: the figure has been revised in project description's paragraphs 94 and 108 as well as in part 3. related to gender.

Response to update, GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: The figure mentioned in paragraph 41 (7147) referred to the total number of beneficiaries. The figure under the core indicator and under paragraph 108 correspond to the number of people trained (2116). We expect to reach 5031 through the communication and visibility activities as well as through online activities.

Response to update, GEFSEC, 6/7/2022: Please kindly note that the total for Core Indicator 1 is automatically calculated only once the respective sub-indicators, i.e. output 1.1.1-1.1.3 under Objective 1 are filled in. Since this project falls solely under CCA-3, none of the proposed sub-indicators/outputs under Objective 1 seem to be appropriate.

Though the project aims at benefiting 7147 direct beneficiaries (please see our response from 03 June 2022 above) the portal entry does not allow reflecting this figure appropriately in the system. As a solution, No. of direct beneficiaries has been introduced under sub-indicator/output 3.3.2 under objective 3.

**OUTPUT 3.3.2**  
**No. of people made aware of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses**

	Male	Female
No. of people with raised awareness	7,147	3,574

Please describe how their awareness was raised

The 7147 (50% women) estimated number of beneficiaries will be made aware of the climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses through the training and knowledge

**9. Project taxonomy. Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as in Table G?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response

**Part II ? Project Justification**

**1. Project Description. Is there 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

•GEFSEC 4/15/2022. Please kindly further elaborate Theory of Change, clearly delineating casual pathway between each item. We would recommend you to refer STAP primer on ToC (<https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer>) for further elaboration.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:

1. Thank you for providing ToC. It would be very useful to get further clarity on the casual pathways that leads to the ultimate goal of the project, from the root cause, through barriers, activities, outputs, outcomes etc

2. Also, please note that Vanuatu is no longer LDC at the time of this request. Therefore, kindly remove the reference in paragraph 13.

GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response

Theory of change revised and adapted to the changes made within the document.

Response to Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:



1. Outputs added to the ToC graphic, but no activities added. As the outputs and activities are already broadly described within the description of each component and the assessment at the inception phase will specify and further inform them, we advise to leave the ToC description as such and update the narrative by then.

2. reference to "Vanuatu" in paragraph 13 deleted

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022. Thank you for drawing relevance to all important mandates in Paragraph 29. It may be useful to mention that the proposed project will also respond to the updated LDC Work Programme of 2018, adopted by COP24.

GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response Response to Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022: reference to the "LDC Work Programme of 2018, adopted by COP24" included in paragraph 29.

**3. Project Description. Is there an elaboration on the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there more clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Note that the objective of this project as to "Strengthen its governance, ..enhance capacity and knowledge...". We wish to underscore that this enhanced governance and capacity should ultimately contribute towards strengthening resilience to the impact of climate change in the LDCs. Therefore, motivation of setting up LDC Secretariat should support LDC chair and the Group much beyond the engagement at the UNFCCC process to wider engagement and partnership in the implementation of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement outcomes. Therefore, the objective may be articulated in line with para 106. In addition, please address the following clarification.

1. Component 1: Please harmonize the narrative supporting various proposed activities under this component.

- Welcome proposal for detailed assessment under outcome 1.1

-Under Outcome 1.2, output 1.2.1, please clarify what would mean by "Establish and implement an internal mechanism to coordinate joint position and activities". If "joint position" is for presenting LDC Group position under the UNFCCC negotiation session, it will not be within the scope of the project. For example, the project will not be able to support Group's Strategy and Ministerial meetings that would draw-up Group's strategic position for the negotiation session. Therefore, please remove it or provide additional clarification

-Under Output 1.2.2. Please clarify, if the support will be limited to the LIFE-AR, LUSCC and technology. Can this also support coordination of implementing REEEI (Although it is mentioned in para 68, this is not reflected in the project component box)?.

- In para 47 and other places in the document, there is a specific references of addressing the need for "Enhanced Transparency Framework". While such synergies are encouraged, for LDCF, climate change adaptation remains front and center of the funding proposal, due to primary mandate given by the UNFCCC COP decisions. Therefore, kindly revise those sections, as appropriate, to remain within the legal mandate as well to ensure that the resources are not over stretched.

- Para 48: Please clarify what would mean "UNFCCC secretariat is among the secondary target group"?. Is the support going to be extended to include UNFCCC Secretariat as well?

- Para 51: welcome proposal to conduct detail baseline assessment to understand the full scope of the project.

- Para 53: In this and subsequent paras, there is a repeated reference to PMU, Interim Secretariat and the Secretariat which creates confusion. Please harmonize and ensure that PMU, which will be set up under this project will also serve as Interim Secretariat. Based on the findings of the assessment under Outcome 1.1, the interim can become an permanent Secretariat, if needed.

- Para 57 &58: Welcome the proposal to set up hybrid office. As the office will require IT support, please consider how to organize IT professional to support the hybrid work. Para 58 also mentions about setting up "Three office spaces". It will be useful to understand physical location of those three spaces, if considered.

- Para 71: Please clarify "transformational climate change.."

- Para 72: refer to Output 1.2.1 above

- Para 76: Refer to para 72 above

- Para 77: Please consider including GEF Operational Focal points of the Countries as well

- Component 3: Please consider changing the name to "Communication and Outreach"

Para 87: It will be useful to explore IT support from UNFCCC as the host of LDC group website. This would compliment the project, especially as there will be higher demand for data management under hybrid office set-up.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022. As the focus of the LDCF is to support adaptation to climate change in the LDCs, various components under the project should directly and explicitly contribute towards reducing vulnerability and strengthen resilience to the impact of climate change. Therefore, we would humbly urge you to consider the following amendment:

1. Component 1: Please make specific references to the building climate change adaptive capacity of the LDCs
2. We request you to consider supporting coordination and facilitation of all LDC Initiatives, under the component 1.
3. With sincere apology, please revise and remove reference to "Interim Secretariat" in the Paragraph 52, 53, 54 and 57 of the CEO Approval request. It seems that PMU to be serving as "Interim Secretariat" may not be the best interest of the project.
4. Component 2: Please make reference to the building adaptive capacity under the applicable project outputs
5. "Output 2.2 on improved involvement in the UNFCCC process", as mentioned in the previous occasion, the LDCF will not be in position to support the output under this project. Therefore, please remove it.
6. Component 3: Please make sure applicable output as reference to building adaptive capacity of the LDCs
7. Paragraph 87. Please confirm that UNFCCC is hosting the LDC Group website. If not, please remove it.

Update, GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Thank you very much for all the hard work and clarification. With regards to Output 2.2, while we understand as the core request of the LDC Group, we will not be in position to support proposed negotiations under UNFCCC process. Therefore, kindly remove or rephrase.

GEFSEC, 6/7/2022: Cleared. Thanks

## Agency Response

- Comment related to Outcome 1.2, output 1.2.1 - "joint position":

The terms joint position have been erased. It was indeed referring to the coordination support to be provided to the Group to gather data, information to draft common and harmonised paper/request. It was understood from the request of the LDC that this is a key element of the support to be provided.

- Comment related to Output 1.2.2. - the LDC initiative REEEI (now reflected in para. 68): this initiative is already in place. Therefore, to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure effectiveness of aid, the project will only provide limited support after assessing the needs and making sur to be complementary with the actions already undertaken. This has been specify in the document under paragraph 68.

-Paragraph 43 - project components: The projects components titled have been revised to better differentiate them and clearly identify their objectives.

- Paragraph 40 - general objective: the general objective has been modified and adapted to reflect the work to be done in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

- Paragraph 41 : second part of the paragraph has been moved to paragraph 45 to describe the ToC. A new sentence has been instead added to include info related to the beneficiaries.

-Paragraph 45: elements under 41 have been moved to this part to describe the projects components and ToC.

- Comment related to para 47 - "Enhanced Transparency Framework": taking into account the resources, this reference has been deleted throughout the document. If important for the Group, the assessment to be undertaken at the inception phase will take it into account and provide guidance on the way forward.

- Comment related to para 48 - "UNFCCC secretariat is among the secondary target group": The sentence has been revised to just indicate that the UNFCCC Secretariat and other identified key stakeholders will be consulted during the assessment process. The support provided by the project will not be extended to the UNFCCC Secretariat. However, the UNFCCC will benefit from the better organisation and coordination of the Group to take part in its process.

- Comment related to para 53 - reference to PMU, Interim Secretariat and the Secretariat: paragraph has been revised.

- Comment related to para 57 & 58 - hybrid office and Secretariat location: until an agreement is reached regarding the legal status of the LDC Group and the hosting arrangement of the Secretariat, the PMU, who will act as the interim Secretariat, will be located at UNIDO headquarter in Vienna, Austria. Regarding the IT support, please note that IT support has been budgeted adequately and foreseen in a the project procurement plan. In general, the project will also benefit from UNIDO's space and IT support to set the (temporary) hybrid office provided partly as in-kind contribution.

- Comment related to para 71 - "transformational climate change.": definition provided

- Comment related to para 72: refer to Output 1.2.1 above: reference related to "joint position" deleted

- Comment related to para 76: Refer to para 72 above: reference related to "joint position" deleted

- Comment related to para 77 - GEF Operational Focal points of the Countries: reference included - However, the project inception assessment will confirm to which extent these stakeholders together with other focal points will benefit from the project.

- Comment related to component 3 - changing the name to "Communication and Outreach": title changed in this component and the logframe.

- Comment related to para 87 - IT support from UNFCCC as the host of ldc group website: sentence added to specify that the project will consult and coordinate the activity with the UNFCCC.

-Paragraph 107: information related to the sector has been included as it was not possible to include them under the meta data section.

Responses to Update GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:

1. Component 1: references to the building climate change adaptive capacity of the LDCs included in paragraph 47 in a general manner.

2. Support coordination and facilitation of all LDC Initiatives under component 1: suggestion taken, all LDC initiatives are now covered.
3. Paragraph 52, 53, 54 and 57 modified; there is no reference to the PMU as interim secretariat.
4. Component 2: reference to building adaptive capacity made under relevant outputs.
5. "Output 2.2 on improved involvement in the UNFCCC process": We rephrase this title, but did not remove it as this was one of the core request of the LDC Group to support (institutionally, logistically and organizationally) to participate to major climate exchange and negotiations. The project will not interfere with the essence of the negotiations, but just facilitate the physical and organizational participation of the Group to such events.
6. Component 3: reference to building adaptive capacity of the LDCs made under relevant outputs.
7. Paragraph 87: the website of the Group indicates now that IIED is supporting it. Therefore, we deleted the reference to the UNFCCC and indicated that the consultation and coordination will be done directly with IIED.

Response to update, GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: outcome 2.2 and subsequent outputs deleted. The budget remained the same for the component as the training and knowledge activities can be open to more stakeholders and cover more topics (to be determined at the inception phase).

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022: Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022.

-Para 101: The project can also facilitate implementation of Paris agreement and UNFCCC decision through sustained engagement

-Para 106: This para beautifully describes the intended objective of the project. Please consider moving it to appropriate section of the document.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response

-comment related to para 101 - facilitation of the implementation of Paris agreement:

Agree, we slightly modify the sentence to clearly cover this aspect. It has been also included throughout the document, the ToC and logframe.

**6. Project Description. Is there a better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**7. Project Description. Is there a better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes. However, it is very important to ensure the sustainability of the project. As such please further elaborate on the blueprint of this strategy and plan, or if this is to be considered after the project inception, please explain how.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response The related paragraph has been modified to provide further information about the strategic plan 2030. This plan will be the result of the consultation and needs assessment to be undertaken at the project inception. It will provide a roadmap for the project implementation as well as guidance to sustain the work of the Group toward 2030.

**8. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**9. Child Project. If this is a child project, an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

**10. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**11. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**12. 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 N/A

Agency Response

**13. Risk. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**14. 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

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes. However, we encourage project to liaise with ongoing GEF LDCF project on "Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation", implemented by UNEP, GEFID 10525.

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks



Agency Response Mention to the GEF LDCF project ID 10525 is included in this section as well as within the project description as one of the key project to consult; the project team will consult this project to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of efforts.

**15. Consistency with national priorities. Has the project described the consistency of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Please include references to updated LDC Work Program, which was adopted at COP24 in 2018

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Cleared. Thanks

Agency Response Reference to the LDC Work Program included.

**16. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**17. 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 GEFSEC 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response

**18. 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 GEFSEC, 4/15/2022: Yes

Agency Response

**19. Annexes:**

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC, 4/15/2022: Yes

Update, GEFSEC, 5/25/2022:

Please include a budget table in Annex E in Portal following the template in the GEF Guidelines with details about each staff/consultant position and related budget allocation to project components, which should be in the columns instead of 'Years' otherwise, it will not be possible to assess the reasonability of charging different budget lines (activities / expenditures) to the different sources (project's components, M&E, PMC) (for instance, we've seen admin support costs and other direct costs are being charged to both components and PMC, when generally, operating costs including PMU staff should be charged to PMC and covered from both GEF funding and co-financing proportionately). Please also upload an excel budget table into Portal's documents section. When resubmitted, we will be in a position to provide comments if any.

GEFSEC, 6/3/2022: Cleared. Thanks

#### Agency Response

Response to update, GEFSEC, 5/25/22:

1. Budget template modified to have the components instead of years.

A project senior expert, a project administrator and a project assistant are forming the PMU. The rationale behind the approach taken is as follows: On top of pure project management, the PMU will also be responsible for delivering on some specific technical activities under the project. The TORs of each staff will refer to the activities the PMU will be conducting. The salary totals to cover these activities over three years may not be sufficiently covered by the project finance. The co-financing might therefore be used to cover the deficit.

#### **20. 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 N/A

#### Agency Response

**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022. Yes

Agency Response  
**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response  
**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

Agency Response  
**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request GEFSEC, 4/15/2022.

Included

Agency Response

**Part III ? Country and Agency Endorsements**

**1. Country endorsements. Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

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

N/A

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 N/A

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**

**1. RECOMMENDATION.**

**Is CEO endorsement/approval recommended?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
GEFSEC 4/15/2022. Not yet. Please address the above comments

GEFSEC, 5/22/2022: Recommended for CEO approval

Updated 5/25/2022: Not yet. Please address the additional comments and also upload revised pdf version of the CEO approval request on the portal.

Update, 6/3/2022: Please address the additional comments.

Update, 6/7/2022: Please update the core indicator figure

Update, 6/8/2022: Please address the Executing Partner Agency to "others"

GEFSEC, 6/8/2022: Recommended for CEO approval

#### Review Dates

	1SMSP CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
<b>First Review</b>	4/15/2022	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	5/25/2022	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	6/3/2022	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	6/7/2022	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	6/7/2022	

#### CEO Recommendation

#### Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Update 5/25/2022:

Since 2001, the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) has organized as a negotiation bloc under the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has become active and progressive group at the climate change negotiations. Its members are spread right across the Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Caribbean regions. The Group is coordinated by its rotating chairmanship among its members from Anglophone Africa, Francophone and Lusophone and Asia-Pacific regions. Despite making headways with progressive climate agenda, the group is challenged by the lack of

sustainable institutional mechanism. Therefore, the project is proposing to strengthen its governance, operationalise its Secretariat, enhance the capacity and knowledge of LDC Parties to improve their engagement and participation in the UNFCCC process, and raise climate funding and benefits geared towards building resilience in LDCs. The project intends to achieve this objective through four interrelated components as follows:

#### **OUTCOME AND RESULTS**

- **Outcome 1:** Strengthened institutional arrangement, governance and coordination of the LDC Group on climate change;
- **Outcome 2:** Enhanced capacity and knowledge of the LDC Group and designated focal points to effectively participate in the UNFCCC process and the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
- **Outcome 3:** Strengthened climate outreach and network for climate actions; and
- **Outcome 4:** Support to the Group Monitored and evaluated.

The project will support development of the Group's roadmap on governance needs, involving all key stakeholders to strengthen their engagement and participation. At the end of the project, it is expected that the Group will be supported by a permanent Secretariat that will enable strengthened action and better coordinated engagement in line with their collective and common positions and interests. The project will train 2116 people (50% Women) and lead to mainstream climate change issues to 4 national policies and plans. The Project also directly responds to the updated LDC Work Program adopted at COP24 in 2018<sup>[1]</sup>

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[1] Decision 16/CP.24

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