

# National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Liberia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10134

**Countries**

Liberia

**Project Name**

National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Liberia

**Agencies**

UNIDO

**Date received by PM**

12/10/2018

**Review completed by PM**

6/13/2022

**Program Manager**

Anil Sookdeo

**Focal Area**

Chemicals and Waste

**Project Type**

EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Part 1: Project Information**

#### **Focal area elements**

**Is the enabling activity 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

Yes

Agency Response

#### **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

Yes

Agency Response

#### **Co-financing**

**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  
Co-financing is not required for EAs.

Agency Response

**GEF Resource Availability**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**  
**Yes**

**Agency Response**

**Are they within the resources available from:**  
**The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**The focal area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Yes

Agency Response

**The LDCF under the principle of equitable access**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**Focal area set-aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

**Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification**

**Background and Context.**

**Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

This is the first EA of this type for this country so the review question is not applicable.

Agency Response

**Goals, Objectives, and Activities.**

**Is the project framework sufficiently described?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

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

Yes

Agency Response

**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

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
YEs

Agency Response

**Cost Effectiveness.**

**Is the project cost effective?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Yes

Agency Response

**Cost Ranges**

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
N/A

Agency Response

**Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP**

**Country endorsement**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Yes

## Agency Response

### **Response to Comments**

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

#### GEF Secretariat Comment

No. Please provide evidence that the Executive Director of the EPA ranks as a Minister or provide letters signed by a Minister.

Liberia is not a Party to the Minamata Convention. As a signatory to the Convention, Liberia can access resources if a Government Minister provides a letter to the GEF CEO and the ED of UNEP indicating that the Government is taking meaningful steps to becoming a Party to the Convention. The letter provided is not signed by a Government Minister and as such the country has not met the eligibility requirements to access enabling activity funding.

Only a Minister can commit the Government to the ratification process.

June 13, 2022 - comment addressed, however please see the following comments:

#### 1. Letter of Endorsement the LoE:

a. Title in LoE (?National action plan on Minamata Convention?) is different from Title in Portal (?National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Liberia?). Please include in Portal the title endorsed by the OFP in the LoE.

b. The Executing Partner in LoE is the Environmental Protection Agency ? in Portal, UNITAR is added. Please remove UNITAR from the executing partner and budget.

c. while it seems to be a typo, in the LoE there are two different amounts endorsed: \$200,000 and \$500,000. A new LoE or an email from the OFP (that needs to be appended to the documents tab) clarifying the final amount will suffice.

2. On Gender: It is duly noted that the project recognizes the gender dimensions of the mercury exposure and the need to engage women in the project. The Agency is requested that in the development of the NAP, that gender experts/stakeholders with gender expertise (not just women) should be included. A reference was made to the recruitment of an "expert team comprised of national and international consultants and technical specialists to provide technical support for the NAP implementation (and to assist in the development of a national comprehensive analysis of ASGM sector and plan activities for national capacity building). The Agency is requested to include gender experts in the team to be recruited.

3. On co-financing : The co-financing letters from UNIDO and UNITAR are dated in 2018.

As this is an EA, co-financing is not required. Therefore, please consider 2 options.

? Remove all the co-financing entries; OR

? Submit updated co-financing letters. UNIDO's cash contribution (if any) needs to be reported as ?Investment Mobilized?; and a brief summary of the grant needs to be provided in Investment Mobilized description section.

4. On Environmental and Social Safeguards: We note that this is EA project, however, there is no Social and Environmental Screening information of the project. If this EA project is exception of ESS policy in UNIDO procedure, please provide information about exception

June 16, 2022 - comments cleared.

Agency Response



UNIDO response (16Jun22)

1.a The Government of Liberia provided revised endorsement letter for consistency with the title already recorded in the GEF portal. The revised LoE is uploaded accordingly.

1.b Executing modality has been corrected in line with the latest endorsement letter received from Government.

1.c The corrected endorsement letter received from Government addressed the amount typo error, please kindly see uploaded revised letter.

2. The comment is well noted; to properly address the gender aspects, a national gender expert has been included in the detailed budget break-down. The position is set under the supervision of the PEE.

3. As an EA, first option has been considered and all the co-financing entries have been removed.

4. UNIDO ESS assessment is now uploaded in the Portal.

N.B.

On Section B: Convention Participation, please kindly note that there is a bug in the system. We cannot edit or delete multiple entries that are created when we press "Save and Continue". We would appreciate if those entries could be removed, keeping only one.

UNIDO response (10Jun22)

Revised letter and justification letter that EPA ED enjoys Minister equivalent responsibilities and reports to President has been provided by counterpart. Liberia does not have an Environment Minister position in its cabinet, its responsibilities stands with EPA ED position.

**Other Agencies 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

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

At the First Conference of the Parties of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, Parties to the Convention outlined the eligibility to access to the GEF for work under this

Convention. In regard to access for Signatory, non-Party countries the following is provided in the guidance of the COP to the GEF:

" Signatories to the Convention are eligible for funding from GEF for enabling activities, provided that any such signatory is taking meaningful steps towards becoming a Party as evidenced by a letter from the relevant minister to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility."

The letter provided for this application is not from a Minister and therefore does not meet the criteria set by the Parties of the Convention. As a result this project cannot be recommended at this time.

June 13, 2022 - Please address the comments from PPO.

June 16, 2022 - comments cleared the project is recommended for CEO approval

#### Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
<b>First Review</b>		
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>1/31/2019</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>3/1/2019</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/13/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/14/2022</b>	

#### CEO Recommendation

#### Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations