



Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11396

Countries

Zambia

Project Name

Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia

Agencies

World Bank

Date received by PM

10/18/2023

Review completed by PM

12/4/2023

Program Manager

Aloke Barnwal

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

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

The PIF needs to provide a clear justification of how it will contribute to GEF 8 objectives of adaptation, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

Alignment with FA strategies is not explained and the anticipated project outputs are not provided, which will have to be corrected in the resubmission. Our understanding is that the project focusses heavily on restoration of production landscapes and does not clearly articulate the benefits for biodiversity of global significance of a number of its interventions. As such, it is suggested that a good share of the project that is to be funded through the GEF trust fund may be better aligned with the Land Degradation Focal Area. Please consider revising the project and programming of funds to align with the LD Focal area.

Objective 1 of the BD FA strategy is dedicated to support integrated landscape/seascape management approaches that use multiple tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within large landscape (and seascape) mosaics that contain globally important biodiversity. . Within these integrated approaches, restoration will be supported through BD funding only when it is meant to ensure the persistence of globally significant biodiversity and if it is coupled with strategies for retaining natural ecosystems within landscape approaches that integrate conservation, restoration and improved use of agricultural lands.

Please clarify what are the anticipated target landscapes as they are not described besides the Kabwe district, and please provide evidence of their global biodiversity significance, including the Kabwe district.

Please also explain how the planned restoration activities would respond to the requirements above or consider programming funds under the LD focal area and ensuring alignment with the LD FA Strategy for this type of activity.

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks the revisions are fine for consideration at the PIF stage.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The team has provided more details on the outcomes and outputs and how these will contribute to the GEF 8 objectives of adaptation and biodiversity. Please see the section detailed project description and Annex 2 in the PCN.

Please see Annex 2? Alignment with Gef-8 Programming Strategies and Country Priorities. The team has provided better explanations on how the project will contribute to the benefits for biodiversity of global significance and the alignment with Objective 1 of the BD FA strategy. Please see table 2.1 on the expected NBS that could be implemented in the project area and the possible benefits for biodiversity of global significance.

Annex 2 has also provided information on the alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework and the NBS that could be implemented to foster biodiversity conservation. Table 2.1 provides detail information on the potential NBS that the project could implement and the potential benefits on biodiversity, water and soil. This has improved the justification on why BD funding has been requested.

An in-depth technical study will be conducted to identify the landscapes that will be restored as part of the project. These areas will be identified and prioritized after consultations with key stakeholders to ensure they are consistent with government strategic priorities. They may include forest reserves, national parks, etc., open areas (customary lands) and critical watersheds.

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

There is very limited description of the climate change risks and its impacts specifically on the target communities and the region. Currently there is a broad generic information about the whole country. Please add.

For example, the PIF says " The climate crisis directly affects Zambia's vital Miombo ecosystem, jeopardizing its capacity to sustain livelihoods for millions relying on timber, food, and non-timber forest products". However, there is no further substantiation of how the climate crisis is affecting the ecosystem. What are the hazards and what aspects of the ecosystem or vulnerable communities are affected by the crisis?

The key intervention summarized in this section are " Planned activities at the Project Identification Phase (PIF) include community anti-poaching efforts, sustainable wildlife tourism promotion, habitat restoration through tree planting, and wildlife conservation training." Please elaborate what specific measures will support communities in adapting to climate hazards.

Under component 3, the PCN suggest the following "The expected outcome is enhancing climate change adaptation through community sustainable use of forests, community-based natural resource management and resilient livelihoods.". There is limited information about any activities to be supported for adaptation in the agriculture sector which has been highlighted as the most vulnerable to climate change.

The component 1 talks about urban resilience but there is no urban vulnerability context described in the PCN nor in the PIF.

The interlinkage to address climate hazards on communities with biodiversity and natural resources through this project also needs to be described a bit more to make a strong case for the MTF funding. The project reads like a juxtaposition of independent components and not an integrated project, be it between the GET and LDCF part, or even within what would be funded by the GET. Please explain the added value the MTF project over standalone LDFC and GET projects, and explain how the components combine and build on each other to deliver environmental and adaptation benefits.

Please also explain how targeted sites were/will be selected, and notably why all protected areas reported under core indicator 1 are in the Muchinga Province when the project also plan to work in the Copperbelt province.

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks. The climate rationale is clear now.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The Project has been revised to address the comments. Additional analysis on the Impacts of Climate Change in Zambia and drivers of deforestation has also been added in the project description and tied into each of the components. Climate change risks and impacts on Zambia and the project area have been fully described in the PCN. Please see sections Project Rationale, Project description, and annex 1 of the PCN.

The specific measures that will support communities in adapting to climate hazards have been included in the Detailed Project Description. See description of outcomes and outputs under components 2 and 3.

The activities to be supported for adaptation in the agriculture sector have been included in the detailed Project Description: providing training in conservation agriculture, adoption of new economic activities to diversify households' livelihoods and increase resilience, supporting small-scale enterprises, promoting eco-friendly initiatives such as beekeeping, adoption of on flood- and drought-tolerant crop varieties, climate-resilient aquaculture, fisheries, and post-harvest measures. The specific activities and practices will be agreed with the local communities depending on their specific needs and location in the project area.

More information on the urban vulnerability context of Kabwe has been added in the PCN.

The description on the interlinkage to address climate hazards on communities with biodiversity and natural resources through this project has been improved in the PCN project description and it lays out a stronger case for the MTF funding.

The methodology to select targeted sites will be based on an in-depth technical study that the team aims to conduct during project preparation. These areas will be identified and prioritized after a technical review and consultations with key stakeholders to ensure they are consistent with government strategic priorities. They may include forest reserves, national parks, etc., open areas (customary lands) and critical watersheds.

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

The project objective doesn't have any response to the urban resilience aspect which is quite central in component 1. It is unclear if the urban resilience support is part of the eco-region support or it is a separate intervention. Under component 1- the first sentence refers to Kabwe city and highlights its lead pollution. Please elaborate if the project will address the lead pollution challenge and how?

Please revise the Theory of Change to show a clear pathway by highlighting the climate and biodiversity problems, the systemic barriers and then linking it with inputs, outputs and outcomes. Please also add assumptions. Currently, it is just a simple depiction of the project design.

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks. The revised approach looks fine.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The project has been extensively revised to address the comments. the new PDO is "To strengthen the climate resilience of the miombo forest and forest-dependent communities through the integration of adaptation considerations in land use planning, sustainable management of natural resources and community-based adaptation practices."

The theory of change has been revised highlighting barriers and the problem to be addressed (Annex 3 of the PCN). Detailed Impacts of Climate Change in Zambia and drivers of deforestation was also added in Annex 1 of the PCN.

More information in the detailed project description has been provided to indicate how the project will fund the formulation of a comprehensive land development plan to address the complex urban vulnerability of Kabwe city and the surrounding area characterized by a combination of environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Outcome 1.2: Formulated and presented the Kabwe district land development plan to Parliament for adoption.

Output 1.2.1: An in-depth technical and feasibility study for the identification of priority areas for i) land recovery; and ii) biodiversity conservation and connectivity within Kabwe district conducted and presented to parliament.

Output 1.2.2: A comprehensive Land Development Plan (LDP) for Kabwe district to inform urban resilience building and development processes and natural resources management adopted by parliament. Activities to be considered include land use mapping, stakeholder consultations, and drafting policy recommendations. Upon adoption by parliament, the LDP becomes a guiding framework for sustainable urban development, land use planning, and natural resource conservation, contributing to resilient and well-managed urban spaces in Kabwe. This output will overcome Barrier 4: Lack of a comprehensive and holistic framework to tackle the environmental problems faced by Kabwe's population.

The theory of change has been revised. See Annex III of the PCN

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

Secretariat's Comments

Please elaborate the gender integration aspect in the PIF and also in the PCN. It is very basic currently. Also, we recommend integrating gender dimensions in the inputs, outputs and outcomes also. We appreciate the gender articulation in the PDO.

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The gender integration within the components has been revised. The gender dimension has been described in the outputs and outcomes. Half of project beneficiaries will be women and women-headed households.

Additional information preliminary Gender analysis has been added in the Gender section of the PCN.

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

The project needs to blend adaptation and biodiversity benefits across the components to justify the MTF and also individual funding alignments. For example, currently majority of funding is for component 2 and all from LDCF. However, its description doesn't intend or make a clear and explicit adaptation benefit linkage.

Please clarify why there are two separate rows for the PMC.

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks. This is fine now.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The blend of adaptation and biodiversity benefits across all the components has been detailed in the PCN project description section and the explanation for the MTF funding.

originally the team has wanted to split the PMC to accommodate the PMC being funded both by GET and LDCF. this has been revised.

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

Please see comment above regarding elaborating region specific climate vulnerability challenges for communities and its link with biodiversity loss and land degradation.

GEFSEC December 1: The revisions are fine. Thanks. The comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

This has been improved in the project PCN in the project rational and country context as well as in Annex 1 of the PCN

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

Please elaborate if any other options were considered.

Please also provide a clear description in response to question C specifically highlighting how the project will complement the FAO project which was approved by Council in June this year.

GEFSEC December 1: The revisions are fine for PIF stage. The comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The description of how the project will complement the FAO project is in the PCN section Project description. Additional information has been added in the section on 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

Please see comment above regarding theory of change.

Outputs are listed in the TOC diagram but it lacks any adaptation benefit or result articulation. Please also include the outputs in the GEF Data sheet under the section Indicative Project Overview

GEFSEC December 1: Thanks. It's fine now.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The theory of change has been improved and it is presented in PCN Annex 3.

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

Once the comments in the previous sections are addressed, this question will be addressed too.

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

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

Please include the institutional and implementation framework in the PCN and PIF.

Thanks.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The PCN now includes a short section on the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment (MoGEE) as the project executors. Annex II of the PCN has been enhanced to include the institutions and implementation framework.

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

Please increase the adaptation beneficiaries target. it is very low for this scale of project. Please note that direct beneficiaries are also those who benefit from technical assistance and any policy measure.

Please see additional comments from BD perspective.

●Core indicator 1:

Please include the WDPA ID of the protected areas in the portal entry and confirm their surface area.

Lavushi Manda WDPA ID 1094 is reported with 158,200 ha in the WDPA, not 150,000 ha.

North Luangwa WDPa ID 1088 is reported with 471,200 ha in the WDPa, not 150,000 ha.

Please note that this indicator captures improvement in management effectiveness of the whole management unit, as measure by the METT. Either the full PA is reported or none.

Core indicator 3: Cropland restoration eligible for BD funding only if such restoration is embedded in a landscape approach and can be linked to benefits for biodiversity of global significance through a solid theory of change. Please justify.

Core indicator 4:

As a project funded by BD, target should be reported under indicator 4.1 and links with benefits for biodiversity of global significance should be explained.

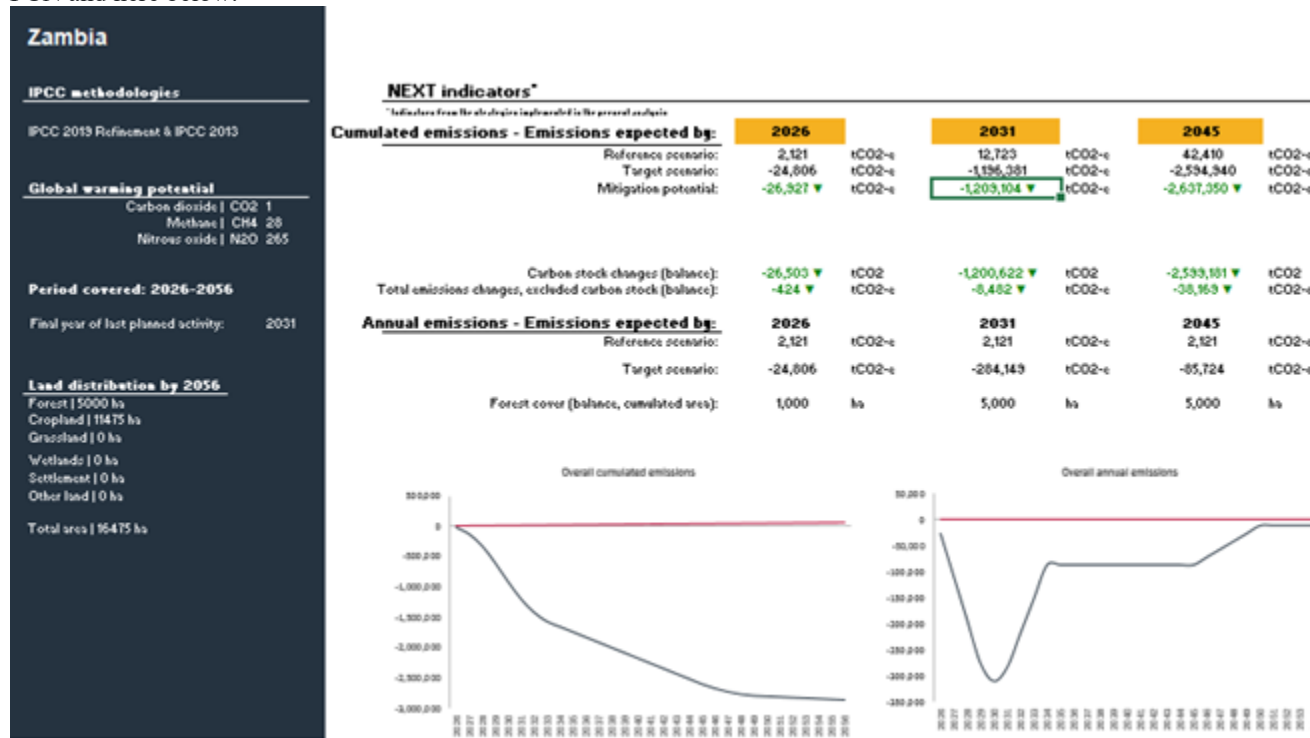
Core indicator 6:

Please include the duration of accounting (20 years) in the portal entry and provide underlying methodology for the target, e.g. the NEXT spreadsheet.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The indicators have been updated as requested. The NEXT spreadsheet is included in the PCN and here below.



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

Secretariat's Comments

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 Please add a risk analysis and also provide Annex D

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Risk analysis is provided in the PCN.

The risk analysis has been included in ANNEX 4 ? Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation.

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

Please describe how the different components are interlinked and sustainable in the long term.

There is very limited description of innovative aspects of the project. Please add.

Please also indicate how the project will facilitate policy coherence. This can be a cross cutting objective across the relevant components.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The connection between components has been explained in the PCN project description.

The adoption and implementation of NBS and landscape restoration options is very new in Zambia. The multiple benefits of sustainable management of land, natural resources, biodiversity conservation, and adoption of NBS are not well known in the country. Awareness at all levels is very low. The project will make a significant contribution in this front plus the implementation of selected restoration options and NBS in the project area.

The project will facilitate policy coherence through Component 1: Strengthening the policy and institutional environment for urban resilience in Kabwe District, land rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation in the miombo ecoregion. This component aims to focus on enhancing institutional and technical capabilities, coupled with the implementation of enabling policies. This will allow overcoming Barrier 1: weak natural resources management legal framework, disconnection between sectoral policies, and a lack of coordination between entities at the national and sub-regional levels

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 The funding is inconsistent with the OFP letter. Please submit appropriate letter or revise the financials.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Revised OFP letter provided.

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

Please elaborate more especially in relation to MEAs particularly related to UNFCCC e.g. NAPs, NDCs .

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

More details have been added to Annex II: Project alignment with country priorities.

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

Please consider including Target 1 "Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes [?]" given the first two outcomes are dedicated to land use planning, which we assume will be spatial land use planning.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Target 1 has been added. See ANNEX 2 ? Alignment with Gef-8 Programming Strategies and Country Priorities.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments Please see comments above. Gender, risk and ESG requirements are not fully complete.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The risk table has been completed and it is presented in ANNEX 4 ? Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation.

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

Secretariat's Comments A brief summary is provided only. Please provide more specific information if available.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Detailed stakeholder consultation summary has been added to the PIF.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

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

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments Please see comment above regarding inconsistency of the financing table with the OFP letter.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Revised OFP letter provided.

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments See above

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments See above.

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

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 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

The entire anticipated co-financing rests on the WB TRALARD project, which is supposed to finish in 2025. Most if not all of the TRALARD loan will have been disbursed by the time this new project starts. It thus does not seem that TRALARD can be a valid co-financing source for this project, in any case the full value of the TRALARD project cannot be reported as co-financing this proposal. Please clarify and revise accordingly.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The TRALARD project is currently being extended and discussions for potential TRALARD II are progressing between the MOGEE and the Bank team. The team adjusted the cofinancing to account for about 20 million from the current TRALARD project and the remaining from the TRALARD II.

Additional sources of co-financing are also being explored by the team.

Annex B: Endorsements

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

Secretariat's Comments Please see comment above. The OFP letter is not consistent with the financing tables.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Revised OFP letter provided.

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

Secretariat's Comments See above

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Revised OFP letter provided.

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

Secretariat's Comments See above.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Revised OFP letter provided.

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

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 Yes

Agency's Comments

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

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

Secretariat's Comments No. Please provide information under Annex D.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

The team has provided the information in *Annex 4 - Risks to Project Preparation and Implementation* of the PCN

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments CCA can't be Significant (1) for LDCF project. The objective should be principle for accessing LDCF resources.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Rio markers adjusted accordingly

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments The taxonomy must include topics related to climate change adaptation.

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

Project Taxonomy updated

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

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

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

Secretariat's Comments

GEFSEC 11 December- The comments have been addressed and the project is technically cleared. Additional comments for considering at the CEO ER stage is provided below.

Not yet. In addition to the above PM comments please address the following comments from PPO:

PPO comments:

1. Letter of Endorsement: the template utilized for this project removed the footnote that conditions the selection of the executing partner to the following: "Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate?". Per the attached email back in March when we were aiming to constitute June 2023 Work Program, Agencies were informed that LoEs "with modifications cannot be accepted and will be returned?". While the removal of the footnote seems to be trivial, it is not: this footnote reduces the chances of having an executing partner that does not meet the fiduciary and procurement standards required to safely execute the project. Please get an email from the OFP accepting this footnote to be part of the LoE (this is an alternative to request a new LoE).

2. Three figures in Portal are higher than the allocations in LoE:

(i) The CC portion of the Agency fee for the GEF Project Grant in portal is \$423,348 while in LoE is \$403,844

(ii) The LDCF portion of the PPG in portal is \$109,912 while in LoE is \$100,000

(iii) The LDCF portion of the PPG Agency Fee in portal is \$10,442 while in LoE is \$9,000

Figures in Portal cannot be higher than those endorsed by the OFP in LoE ? the Agency has two options: (i) adjust the figures in Portal aligned with the figures in LoE; or (ii) keep the figures in Portal but obtaining a new LoE.

3. Core Indicators: Please include the WDPA IDs under core indicator 1.

4. Stakeholder engagement: Agree with PM that the PIF only provides a brief summary and should provide more specific information on stakeholder consultations in project design. In addition, it is noted that there has not been any consultation with CSOs and local community organizations. Considering the objective and scope of this project, the agency should provide some additional information on the roles of these relevant stakeholders and how they will be engaged and consulted in project development to inform project components.

5. Environmental and social safeguards: The project overall ESS risk is classified as moderate in PIF (page 15). However, PCN said environmental and social risk classification as Low (page 1). 1) Please make these consistent and correct. Also, 2) please provide a clear plan for further environmental and social risk assessment and risk management plan during the project preparation stage. We also support PM comment on request to attach screening document.

GEFSEC 6th December

Please address the following additional comments from BD perspective

Main comments:

1. The project objective (PDO: To strengthen the climate resilience of the miombo forest and forest-dependent communities through [?].) is entirely dedicated to adaptation, which is not acceptable for project that is also funded by the GET. Please revise the project objective to ensure alignment with a MTF project. Please also ensure that the project objective is consistent in different parts of the document. It is shown to be ?To create a solid legal framework for land use planning and to sustainably restore the miombo forest ecosystems and agro-pastoral landscapes while developing community-based adaptation strategies with a focus on youth and women's resilience? in the theory of change presented in Annex 3.

2. While a generic elaboration is provided for the ecoregion as a whole, the justification of the BD significance of the landscapes to be targeted, with some to be defined during PPG, is not provided. The only landscape defined at this stage, Kabwe, is an urban district that has been severely impacted by mining operations. As such, eligibility for BD is unclear, but we understand no BD funds are to be used specifically for the Kabwe district. Please, however, provide the criteria that will be used to ensure that the landscapes to be targeted in the two other provinces will be chosen to maximize benefits for BD of global significance, together with adaptation and LD benefits.

3. Alignment with the BD FA Strategy is still unclear. The entry point chosen in the biodiversity focal area strategy (objective 1) is to support integrated landscape/seascape management approaches that use multiple tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within large landscape and seascape mosaics, blending protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), sustainable use, and biodiversity mainstreaming approaches in the context of large-scale investments. Yet, the project plans contribution to PA management effectiveness (core indicator 1) only in the Muchinga Province when the project also plans to work in the Copperbelt province and the Kabwe district and the target on core indicator 4 (11,475 ha, all croplands according to the Next screenshot) does not indicate that significant conservation outside of protected areas are planned. Please align the design of the project for areas to be funded through the BD focal with a true landscape approach, blending multiple tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within large landscapes. This also includes restoration activities to be supported through BD funding, which have to be designed to promote the persistence of globally significant biodiversity and be coupled with strategies for retaining natural ecosystems within landscape approaches that integrate conservation, restoration and improved use of agricultural lands. Please also revise the justification of the alignment with the BD FA Strategy accordingly.

4. The project proposes to program resources under the LD focal area but does not justify its alignment with the LD strategy and Zambia's LDN targets. The project justifies alignment with the CCM focal area strategy when it does not program resources under CCM. Please revise.

5. The PCN uses the term land rehabilitation. Please confirm that GEF funds will not be utilized to rehabilitate former mining sites. **[I would recommend checking with LD if they would be able to fund such interventions given Zambia included**

the rehabilitation of degraded land in mining and quarrying areas in its LDN targets]

6. While we note the improvements to link the various adaptation and environmental interventions, the project, as described, still seems to be a juxtaposition of unrelated components. In particular, GET would fund the development of the legal framework for land use planning in the miombo ecoregion (component 1) and then very targeted on-the-ground interventions in the Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces (component 2) without the intermediate step of integrated land use planning at the landscape scale to ensure that the on-the-ground interventions are located in the most effective places, are not undermined by other activities in the surroundings, and their benefits can endure. The only comprehensive land use planning included as part of the project seems to be in the Kabwe district (outcome 1.2) with no on the ground interventions funded by the project there. It seems some land-use planning may be supported through output 3.1.2 in the Muchinga and Copperbelt Provinces but their scale and scope is not clear, and there does not seem to be any linkage made with the other project interventions, including with the on-the-ground interventions of component 2. Please revise as necessary and provide a Theory of change, especially a narrative, that explains how the intervention pathways combine to deliver the project outcomes and overall objective.

7. The outputs underpinning outcome 1.1 seems insufficient to achieve the outcome ?Established National and sub-regional legal framework for land use planning for Kabwe and miombo ecoregion?, which does not seem to be supported by other project interventions. Please explain in particular why output 1.1.1 focusses only on community forest management structures and does not seem to encompass other sectors and land uses, when the drivers of forest loss are mainly in the agriculture and infrastructure sectors (as per annex 1). Please also explain how the strengthening community forest management would be sufficient to deliver on the ambition of outcome 1.1, which goes beyond forest management to address land use planning at large, and of component 2 that is to promote an integrate landscape approach. How is the project to promote, in concrete terms, a coordinated approach across sectors and scales to ensure integrated land-use planning?

Detailed comments:

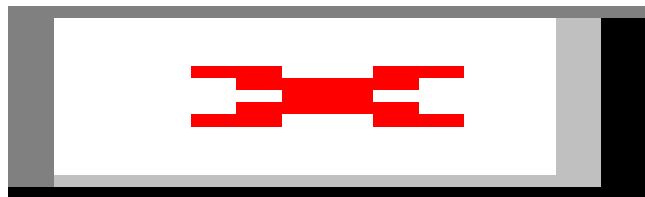
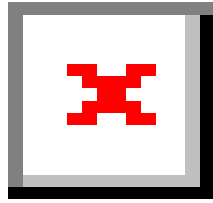
Within the justification of the biodiversity relevance of the targeted areas it is stated that ?The Miombo woodlands have been recognized as one of the five global biodiversity hotspots, characterized by their unique and irreplaceable endemic species?. However, no

reference is provided and, to our knowledge, it is incorrect. While there are several definitions of 'hotspots', none has only 5 'hotspots'. The sentence may be a mischaracterization of Mittermeier et al. 2003, which applied to the entirety of 'Miombo-Mopane woodlands of Southern Africa', not just Miombo woodlands, and classified that Miombo-Mopane woodlands of Southern Africa as one of five high-biodiversity wilderness areas, but reported that, even for these five areas, the concentration of biodiversity paled in comparison to that of the 25 biodiversity hotspots [defined by Meyers et al., 2000], which hold nearly 3 times as many endemics in an area one-fourth as large (Mittermeier et al. 2003. Wilderness and biodiversity conservation. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 100: 10309-13). Please revise or delete.

2. Component 1 does not have output defined in table B. Please include the output spelled out in the PCN.

3. Core indicators:

The hectareage in table B and in the annex theory of change (annex 3) are not aligned with that reported in the core indicator table: the hectarages for core indicator 1, 3 and 4 do not correspond, and the conservation interventions are supposed to take place in both Copperbelt and Muchinga according to output 2.1.2, when only the only conservation action reported on core indicators are PAs in Muchinga. Please align.



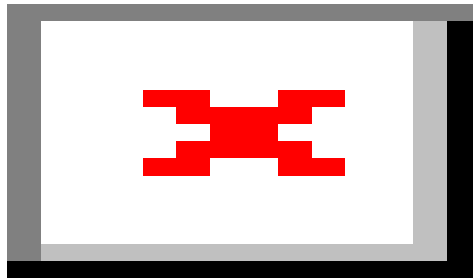
Core indicator 4:

The target is reported under core indicator 4.1 but links with benefits for biodiversity of global significance are not explained. And the description of activities appears to relate more to Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems. Please either explain the link with biodiversity of global significance or report under 4.3 if adequate.

Core indicator 6:

The NEXT spreadsheet has not been provided as a separate document in the portal. Please provide.

4. Please remove the contact details (including phone!) of the consulted participants from the documents, including the PIF, that will be made public:



5. Alignment with GBF targets:

Given the project is to strengthen PA management effectiveness, it should report a contribution to Target 3.

8. Programing of funds:

All programming of funds for BD is under BD-1-1 ?Financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems? when far from all of the BD funding will be dedicated to protected areas. The programming of funds should be broken down on the multiple relevant entry points, which may include:

BD-1-1	Financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of protected area systems
BD-1-2	Sustainable use of biodiversity
BD-1-3	Ecosystem restoration
BD-1-4	Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors

Likewise, all LD funding is programmed under LD-1 (Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)) when, as we understand it, this project will fund restoration with LD funds:

LD-1	LD-1: Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)
LD-2	LD-2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration

Agency's Comments

Thank you.

A new LOE has been provided. The OFP consented to the footnote to be part of the LoE.

The core indicators have been revised and a the stakeholder engagement section updated. Annex 4 of the PCN provides detailed risks including environmental and social safeguards.

December 8, 2024

Main Comments:

Thank you. comments addressed as requested in the PCN and the GEF PIF template.

1. PDO revised and updated to be consistent across all documents.
2. Thank you. Comment well noted. To maximize environmental benefits and adaptation benefits for in Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces, the criteria will broadly consider the unique ecological context and socio-economic needs of the regions. In this regard, and consistent with the project's proposed PDO, the criteria will reflect the potential for ecosystem restoration, potential for climate-resilient agricultural practices that enhance both environmental and adaptation benefits, potential for Community-Based Natural Resource Management (consistent with the Zambia Forest Act 2015) coupled with capacity development for cross-sectoral management of natural resources and diversification of livelihood options to strengthen community sustainable management and use of resources. Combined, the criteria be girded by seeking to create synergies between environmental and adaptation benefits, fostering resilient ecosystems and enhancing the well-being of local communities. The integration of ecological and socio-economic considerations will remain essential for achieving sustainable development in Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces.

3. Additional information has been provided in the PCN under output 2.1.2 (Para 43-45). Through the PPG, and as specific project activities are being developed with stakeholders, the project will strengthen and clarify alignment with BD and the broad landscape interventions that are being proposed.

4. Alignment with BD and LD priorities has been revised. Reference to CCM1.4 removed.

5. No activities of land rehabilitation of former mining sites will be done in Kabwe and Copperbelt. Specifically, activities in Kabwe are only to build the institutional framework.

6. The comment is well noted and appreciated. Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 have been introduced to clarify the scope of land use planning. Additional information will be provided at PPG to further clarify the project's land use planning ambitions.

7. Additional outputs to achieve outcome 1.1 were added. These will operationalize the National and sub-regional legal framework for land use planning for the project area. The new outputs are as follows:

1. Output 1.1.1. Developed climate responsive implementation action plans (for the short and medium term) for Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces to operationalize the National and sub-regional legal framework for the integration of adaptation considerations in land use planning and sustainable management of natural resources. To effectively integrate adaptation considerations into land use planning and sustainable natural resource management, the legal framework supported by the project must be translated into actionable steps in the project area. This output will delineate precise and tangible actions, along with a repository of ideas and bank of projects in Muchinga and Copperbelt in the short and medium term. The most suitable ideas could be implemented and linked to the outcomes, outputs and activities in components 2, 3, and 4.
2. Output 1.1.2. Established forums at the national, provincial and village-level for conducting consultations, disseminating, and endorsing the climate-responsive implementation action plans and promoting integrated land use planning and sustainable management of natural resources in the project area. These forums will be initiated during project preparation and will continue throughout project implementation and closure. The forums will identify key stakeholders at the national, provincial, and local levels to ensure sectoral coherence and appropriate coordination that will enhance project implementation. A legal and administrative structure will be identified and piloted during project implementation with the goal of sustaining these forums and their key objectives after project closure. This initiative is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project interventions

Detailed comments:

1. Many thanks for the comment. As recommended, the sentence has been reworded and reference provided.

"Miombo woodlands, a biodiversity hotspot, are characterized by unique and irreplaceable endemic species, covering 2.7 million km² in southern and eastern Africa." (reference: Boom, A., Migliore, J., Kaymak, E., Meerts, P., & Hardy, O. (2021). Plastid introgression and evolution of African miombo woodlands: New insights from the plastome-based phylogeny of *Brachystegia* trees. *Journal of Biogeography*, 48, 933 - 46. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14051>)

2. Outputs under component 1 added.

3. The confirmed value in table B of the PCN (629, 400 ha) has been updated in the theory of change.; Core indicator 4 has been updated as suggested; Next output is available as part of the PCN.

4. As advised, contact details have been removed.

5. **Alignment with GBF targets:** Target under core indicator 3 adjusted.

6. **Programing of funds:** programming of funds has been updated to reflect relevant entry points

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

Secretariat's Comments

- Strengthen the integrated landscape approach, including in the definition of target landscapes that maximize the benefits for adaptation, land degradation and biodiversity of global significance. Please notably explain in the CER how these three objectives have been considered in the choice and delineation of the landscapes.

- Please refine the Theory of change, and most notably how interventions in different components build on each other to deliver project outcomes, i.e. show identify the causal pathways build on multiple levels and type of interventions to deliver the promised integrated outcome. In particular, the links between the on-the-ground interventions of components 2 and 3, and the work on the enabling environment in component 1 should be made concrete, and assumptions underlying the corresponding causal links identified.

- Define more precisely the project's contribution to Zambia's LDN targets.

- Ensure that GEF funds will not be used to rehabilitate former mining sites.

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	11/1/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/1/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/6/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/11/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		