

Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11070

Countries

Turkmenistan

Project Name

Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

3/20/2023

Review completed by PM

4/12/2023

Program Manager

Esteban Bermudez Forn

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

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

EBF 9/25/2023:

3. Cleared.

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Cleared
2. We note that the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection appears now as Executing Entity. Cleared.
3. Please address the previous comment related to the Letter of Endorsement:
The letter of endorsement used the GEF-7 format. The GEF Secretariat informed Agencies that letters of endorsement with modifications will not be accepted and will be returned. Please submit a new letter of endorsement using the GEF-8 format, signed by the OFP is required. We also note that the total Agency Fee in the letter of endorsement is higher than 9.5%.

EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the following comments:

1. Correct the region.

Project Title:	Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement		
Region:	Turkmenistan	GEF Project ID:	11070
Country(ies):	Turkmenistan	Type of Project:	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency ID:	743803
Executing Partner:	UNDP	Executing Partner Type:	GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate Change	Submission Date :	3/15/2023
Project Sector (CCM Only):	Mixed & Others		
Taxonomy:	Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Financing, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate finance, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Learning, Indicators to measure change		
Type of Trust Fund:	GET	Project Duration (Months):	36
GEF Project Grant: (a)	1,776,484.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	168,765.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	1,945,249.00	Total Co-financing:	600,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	50,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)	4,750.00

2. In the General Project Information Table UNDP has been selected as executing agency (see screen capture above). However, per the letter of endorsement, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection will execute (see below). Please correct the executing partner in Portal.

Subject: Endorsement for the project “Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement”

In our capacities as GEF Political and Operational Focal Points for Turkmenistan, we confirm that above project proposal (a) is in accordance with national priorities of the Government of Turkmenistan, commitments of the country to the relevant global environmental conventions and the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Climate Change; and (b) (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

We are pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection. We request FAO to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from GEFTF being requested for this project is US\$2,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG) and Agency fees for project cycle management services, associated with the total grant. The financing requested for Turkmenistan is detailed in the table below:

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US\$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Fee	Total
GEF TF	FAO	CBIT	50,000	1,776,484	173,516	2,000,000
Total GEF Resources			50,000	1,776,484	173,516	2,000,000

Sincerely,
Allanur Altyyev,
Minister, GEF Political Focal Point for Turkmenistan



3. The letter of endorsement used the GEF-7 format. The GEF Secretariat informed Agencies that letters of endorsement with modifications will not be accepted and will be returned. Please submit a new letter of endorsement using the GEF-8 format, signed by the OFP is required. We also note that the total Agency Fee in the letter of endorsement is higher than 9.5% (as marked in the screen capture above).

Agency's Comments

Agency Response 20 September 2023:

Thank you for your comment. A new letter of endorsement in the GEF-8 format and with a corrected Agency Fee amount of the project's allocation has been signed and uploaded in the portal.

Agency Response 6 July 2023:

1. The region information is not selected in the submission of the project in the portal. The Portal Technical support colleagues confirm it is currently not possible to change this information in the portal.
2. Executing partner is updated in the Portal.

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 EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

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

EBF 7/23/2023: Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: Based on the scale of the project and the logframe that is presented, we kindly request you to review and reduce the project budget.

Agency's Comments Additional activities are added in the Indicative project overview and budget has been reconsidered in accordance with the estimated cost of activities under different components. The addition and modification in the Indicative project overview are highlighted in green.

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

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Cleared
2. Cleared

EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the following comments:

1. Under Component 3, please ensure that gender equality considerations, including in representation of gender experts, are ensured. Particularly, in:
 1. Activity 3.1.1.2: National consultation on conducted capacity gap assessment under Activity 3.1.1.1;
 2. Activity 3.1.1.3: Developing guidelines and action plans on M&E of NDC adaptation actions, at national, sub-national, program, and project levels;

3. Activity 3.1.2.2: Preparation of a background document and knowledge materials on current institutional framework and existing methodologies on loss and damage;
 4. Activity 3.1.2.3: Development of an updated version of the FAO loss and damage methodology for the NDC sectors focusing on Turkmenistan;
 5. Activity 3.1.2.5: Developing a protocol for collecting, verifying, transmitting, aggregating data on loss and damage for transparent reporting and integrating with the output 1.2.1.
2. Representation of women's group and gender experts should also be ensured in Activity 3.1.2.1: Supporting the government to establish an Inter-agency Working Group (IWG) and associated ToR on Loss and damage to harmonize existing national methodologies for assessing loss and damage.

Agency's Comments The comment is addressed in the paragraphs #55-60 and highlighted in green.

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 EBF 4/28/2023: Yes, the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions are proportional to the PMC. The PMC is less than 10% of the total GEF grant. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

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

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Cleared
2. Cleared
3. Cleared
4. Cleared

EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the following comments:

1. Please explain briefly how the project will coordinate with the ongoing project GEF ID 9442 to prepare the Fourth National Communication and First Biennial Update Report of Turkmenistan.
2. Although Turkmenistan is yet to request support from the GEF to prepare its first and subsequent Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs). Please explain how the project anticipates coordinating and contributing to the preparation of BTRs.
3. The PIF mentions that meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection including experts and personnel from the UNDP country office. The PIF could better describe the relevant roles of other stakeholders to project outcomes and plans to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement.
4. Please include women's groups among the stakeholders and include them in activities such as: enhanced stakeholder capacity for reporting climate finance (domestic and international) (Output 1.3.1), enhanced stakeholder capacity and knowledge on MPGs and ETF reporting (Output 1.4.1).

Agency's Comments

1. Thanks for the review comment. Based on the review comment further explanation is added about the coordination with Fourth National Communication and First Biennial Update Report of Turkmenistan. Please see the green highlighted paragraph #29.

2. Based on the review comment further explanation is added about the coordination and supporting the BTR preparation in Turkmenistan. Please see the green highlighted paragraph #30.

3. Based on the review comment further explanation is added about the stakeholder roles related to project outcomes on to Table 2.

4. Paragraphs #34, 52 and 63 is revised based on the comment, and highlighted in green.

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

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the following comments:

1. Regarding the inclusion of loss and damage, as part of Component 3, please ensure that the interventions to be conducted by the project are within the scope of the enhanced transparency requirements defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.

Agency's Comments Further explanation is added, in paragraphs #43-46, and highlighted in green.

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 EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) Is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Cleared
2. Noted. Cleared.
3. Cleared

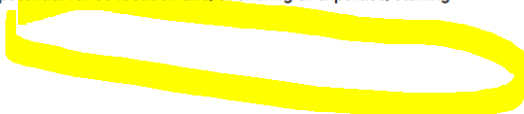
EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the following comments:

1. What will be the institutional framework for this project? Please clarify.
2. We note that UNDP is proposed as executing partner. Please elaborate why a GEF agency was selected and explain the execution modality that will be employed. Have you considered having local entities to partner or contribute to project execution?
3. Please fill in the missing information related to coordination and cooperation with ongoing initiatives as highlighted in the screen capture below:

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing



Agency's Comments

1. Intended Institutional Framework has been elaborated in paragraph 72, highlighted in green.

2. The Execution modality has extensively been discussed with the Government counterparts. The intention is to have the Government to take over the execution, however, they are concerned about the institutional capacity gaps, such as regulations that would restrict the transfer of international funds to the Governmental bodies and limitations on recruitment; as well as the fact that it is not possible to have government organs be audited by outside parties, in order to be compliant for UN implementing partner status. This is an ongoing discussion with the Government and FAO is exploring options for the Government to take over partial responsibility, whereas other partners are brought in to deliver what the Government can't take over. The possibility of having other/non-governmental national organs take on this role is also explored; however, the Government indicates no existing body is trusted to be able to deliver the requirements of the project. The Government has suggested UNDP to be involved in supporting the execution of the project. This will further be explored, and the decision will be finalized during the PPG stage and the Letter of Endorsement will be updated accordingly. Relevant information on the matter is included in paragraph 73 of the document, highlighted in green.

3. The required information is provided in paragraphs 74 and 75, highlighted in green.

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

EBF 7/23/2023: Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: Please justify why only 300 people (Indicator 11) will directly benefit from the project.

Agency's Comments Thanks for the review comment. Based on the review comment, the OFP conducted a comprehensive assessment of the current situation and staff number of different ministries associated with ETF process who will be receiving the capacity development support from the project. Detailed breakdown is provided in the explanation sub-section under the Core Indicators section. There will be an estimated 175 more staff of related ministry and agencies, academia and experts who will be benefitting from project's outputs and 150 University students who will be trained. The total number of beneficiaries are thus revised to 450 people.

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

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?

b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 9/25/2023:

1. Cleared

EBF 7/23/2023:

1. Thank you for adding the mitigation strategies. Before each mitigation strategy, briefly describe each risk (1-2 sentences max.).
2. Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023:

1. Please elaborate on the mitigation measures or strategies that will be taken for each of the risks that have been identified.
2. Please provide a comment to the "Overall Risk Rating".

Agency's Comments

Agency Response 20 September 2023:

Thank you for your comment. A description of each of the risks are added.

Agency Response 6 July 2023:

1. Based on the review comment, mitigation strategies are added for all the risks identified in the Risks Table.
2. Based on the review comment, an explanatory comment on overall risk rating is added on the Risks Table.

5.7 Qualitative assessment

- a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?
- b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?
- c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 7/23/2023: Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: Please elaborate on the project's scaleup potential.

Agency's Comments Based on the review comment an explanatory comment on project's scaleup potential is added. Please see the yellow highlighted paragraph #79.

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

EBF 4/28/2023: Yes, the project is in line with the Pillar II (Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns into sustainable development strategies) and objective 2.1 (Support capacity-building needs for transparency under the Paris Agreement through the CBIT) of GEF-8 Climate Change Focal Area Strategy and Associated Programming.

Agency's Comments

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 EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

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 N/A

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 4/28/2023: The list of stakeholders consulted is provided in paragraphs 51-52 and Table 2, and the dates of the consultations are provided in paragraph 62. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

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 N/A

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

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 EBF 4/28/2023: Yes, \$50,000 are requested for PPG.

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

EBF 7/23/2023: Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: Please elaborate on the co-financing to be provided to the project in the text box below the indicative co-financing table.

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Other	Investment mobilized	400,000.00
			Total Co-financing(\$)	600,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Parallel projects that will be implemented by FAO in Turkmenistan through GCF and Government of Turkey Funding.

Agency's Comments The required information is added in the relevant section.

Annex B: Endorsements

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

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes, the project is endorsed by Mr. Allanur Altyyev, GEF Political Focal Point, and Mr. Berdi Berdiyev, Operational Focal Point of Turkmenistan.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 9/25/2023: Cleared

EBF 7/23/2023: Apologies for my previous comment on 4/28/2023 to this question.

As noted in the third comment of 1. General Project information, the letter of endorsement used the GEF-7 format. The GEF Secretariat informed Agencies that letters of endorsement with modifications will not be accepted and will be returned. Please submit a new letter of endorsement using the GEF-8 format, signed by the OFP is required. We also note that the total Agency Fee in the letter of endorsement is higher than 9.5%.

EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

Agency Response 20 September 2023:

Thank you for your comment. A new letter of endorsement in the GEF-8 format and with an Agency Fee amount smaller than 9.5% of the project's allocation has been signed and uploaded in the portal.

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 N/A

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: 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

EBF 7/23/2023: We note that the ESS supporting document has been uploaded to the documents section of the project. Cleared.

EBF 4/28/2023: The ESS supporting document has been uploaded to the documents section of the project. It has a "Moderate" climate risk classification. Is it possible to upload this to the portal as well?

Agency's Comments The document is uploaded on the relevant section in the portal.

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments EBF 4/28/2023: Yes.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

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

Secretariat's Comments

EBF 9/25/2023: The PM recommends the PIF for further processing.

EBF 7/23/2023: Please address the comments above related to the letter of endorsement and the risks table.

** Please **highlight in yellow** the changes made on the portal version of the CEO approval document for ease of reference. **

EBF 4/28/2023: Please address the comments above.

** Please **highlight in green** the changes made on the portal version of the CEO approval document for ease of reference. **

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/28/2023	7/6/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	7/23/2023	9/21/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	9/25/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		