

# Integrated Dryland Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Conservation (IDERRCN) to Support the Great Green Wall Initiative in Kebbi State in Nigeria.

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**  
11461  
**Countries**  
Nigeria  
**Project Name**  
Integrated Dryland Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Conservation (IDERRCN) to Support the Great Green Wall Initiative in Kebbi State in Nigeria.  
**Agencies**  
UNEP  
**Date received by PM**  
6/20/2025  
**Review completed by PM**  
12/3/2025  
**Program Manager**  
Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

**Focal Area**  
Multi Focal Area  
**Project Type**  
FSP

## CEO

### Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

### 2. Project Summary.

- a) 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 outcomes?
- b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?
- c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent program goal and approach?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed

**July 04, 2025**

To be revised.

- The summary missed the opportunity to highlight the severe issue of drought and how this project, fitting the National Drought Plan and the LDN targets, will respond to this problem.

Agency Response

15/10/2025

The comment is well noted, and as recommended, the summary highlights droughts and how the projects, aligned with NDP and LDN, is designed to address severe droughts (p3).

### 3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
- b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
- c) 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?

- d) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
- e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
- f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 20, 2025**

Addressed.

**November 10, 2025**

- The subtotals per component were corrected. However, the M&E component is financed at the height of US\$ 205,000, or 7.1% of the GEF project grant (minus pmc) in comparison with 5% for similar projects (see project cycle guidelines in paragraph 8 - page 63). This level may be explained by additional activities under the output 5.1.2 (Knowledge and information systems developed for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem restoration). Several of these activities seem more related to KM than M&E? In every case, please correct, and reduce the M&E under 5% (of the project grant minus pmc = US\$2,884,230).

**October 18, 2025**

Quality control: Please note the Component subtotals in the Project Description Overview table (first image) are not aligned with those found in the Budget Table (second image). Please correct this discrepancy in the resubmitted document. Please also note the following comment on the empty M&E field.

|                                           |                      |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |            |              |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------|--------------|
| Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&E | Technical Assistance | 4.1 Knowledge management and dissemination empower stakeholders to adopt drought-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices     | 4.1.1 Gender-responsive, drought-focused awareness and Information Systems Developed<br><br>4.1.2: Gender-inclusive lessons and knowledge products systematically collected and disseminated to various audiences, including GGWI Program regional meetings. | GET | 205,000.00 | 1,479,060.00 |
| Component 4: Knowledge Management and M&E | Technical Assistance | 4.2. Participatory monitoring and evaluation strengthen project implementation and results, contributing to the GGWI Program | 4.2.1 Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented to contribute to the                                                                                                                                                  | GET | 102,922.00 | 685,420.00   |

|                    |                                                                                                    |         |           |         |        |        |           |         |              |           |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| Office Supply      | Office Rent (4 years), furnishings, office supplies, computers and Peripherals and other equipment |         |           |         |        |        | 9,500     | 9,500   | NAGGW at PME |           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |                                                                                                    | 450,000 | 1,327,018 | 806,000 | 12,000 | 96,922 | 2,679,940 | 205,000 | 143,500      | 3,028,440 |

Have you analysed any aspects of the budget as needed here

- Please ensure that the M&E component field in the Portal is used correctly; currently the M&E information is entered as another technical component, so the Portal shows no budget for M&E:

|                                 |                        |              |               |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) |                        |              |               |
|                                 | Sub Total (\$)         | 2,884,940.00 | 20,757,500.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC)   |                        |              |               |
|                                 | GET                    | 143,500.00   | 1,092,500.00  |
|                                 | Sub Total(\$)          | 143,500.00   | 1,092,500.00  |
|                                 | Total Project Cost(\$) | 3,028,440.00 | 21,850,000.00 |

Please provide justification

### July 04, 2025

- The result framework needs to include drought related aspects, including the formulation of outcomes, outputs, and activities.

- We MUST see specific actions borrowed from the National Drought Plan applicable to the Kebbi State, as: improved agriculture and better soil management practices, community water management strategies...

- Gender: gender and women aspects are integrated in some outputs as the 1.1.4, the component 3 (3.1.1, 3.1.2), and the component 4 (4.1.1, 4.1.2). However, to reach a target of 50% beneficiaries being women, we suggest integrating deeper women, gender issues, and youth, in the other outputs and subsequent activities: 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 3.1.3. Please, complete.

- GEF project financing and cofinancing contribution: ratio"1: 13.1 for a cofinancing ratio of 1:6.6

### Agency Response

#### November 18, 2025

As guided, the M&E has been adjusted downwards to \$137,001.

#### November /04/2025

3a: Comment noted with thanks ? as recommended, the discrepancy has been corrected and harmonized. Component 4 Outcome 4.1 now show \$102,922, and Component 5 (M&E) is \$205,000

3b: Component 5 M&E component filed has been completed in the portal, along with its corresponding budget.

15/10/2025

i) The Project Description Overview table has been revised to reflect drought related aspects (p.4-5)

ii) As noted above actions borrowed from the National Drought Plan have been embedded ? these include ?awareness campaigns and policy dialogues for integrated water conservation and drought-resilient restoration to combat droughts (output 1.1.3) and Gender-responsive water management committees established and relevant capacities built (1.1.4) (p.4-5).

iii) As recommended, gender aspects are integrated in all the proposed outputs of the project (p.4-5).

iv) The GEF project financing to cofinancing is:

1 to 7, that is, every GEF USD is cofinanced with \$7

#### **4. Project Outline**

##### **A. Project Rationale**

**a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?**

**b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**

**c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed

**July 04, 2025**

- In regards to the comments made by the STAP, we take note of the narrative to describe the vulnerability of local communities and especially farmers. Would you have any metrics or quantified information to measure the improvement of the vulnerability situation and climate risks?

- The text misses the problem of drought while the State of Kebbi is very concerned by this problem: with a decline in rainfall and a history showing that the State of Kebbi is prone to drought. Please, use some scientific data available to describe and, if possible, quantify the problem.

- Please, check the national drought plan to frame some of the proposed outputs and activities, including improved agriculture and better soil management practices, community water management strategies, for instance.

Agency Response

15/10/2025

The comments are well noted. In response to the review recommendations:

i) The possible quantified information found on vulnerability within Kebbi has been provided (p.9 -10)

ii) As noted under i) above, information has been provided (p.9 -10)

iii) Addressed ? the document includes information how the IDERRCN is aligned and contributes to the implementation of the national drought plan (e.g. see table p. 57 (Table of how IDERRCN aligns and advances NDP objectives). The document also frames the drought problem within NDP (e.g. see references on p. 8)

## 5 B. Project Description

- 5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?
- b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
- 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? [If a child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach?
- d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?
- e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?
- f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?
- g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?
- h) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?
- i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?
- j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?
- k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?
- l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?
- m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed

**July 04, 2025**

- Theory of Change: the diagram under the chapter "B. Child project description" is not readable. Please, correct.

- Please, insert the problem of drought in the reasoning, proposing a pathway for change.

Result framework:

- General comment: we do not see any activity related to other child projects or the regional coordination platform. Please, complete.

- The added value of a programmatic approach for the GGW is not demonstrated. Please, complete.

- o Output 1.1.1: Please, explain how the interagency GGWI coordination committees at national and state level will survive once the project will have closed.
- o Output 1.1.2: we would like to understand how the training related activities are connected to the national and state framework for professional and vocational training (explain the role of cofinancing too).
- o Output 2.1.2: please, clarify the strategies to identify and valorize "indigenous knowledge".
- o 4.2.2: please, clarify the tasks and the costs about the "establishment of early warning systems for climate risks".

## Agency Response

15/10/2025

The comments are well noted. In response to the review recommendations:

- a) Efforts have been made to improve its readability ? text has been provided in a table to summarise the information in the ToC (p.29-30)
- b) As recommended, drought has been embedded in the reasoning (p.29-31)
- c) Under component 4, two indicators have been added to track activities related to peer-to-peer learning and regional coordination meetings (p.80).
- d) As requested, information has been provided to demonstrate the value of a programmatic approach ? (p 48 and p58).

Output 1.1.2: With regards to vocational training, additional information has been provided (p63-64) demonstrating how IDERCCN will contribute to vocational training and the relevant policy that the project is aligned with.

Output 2.1.2: Revised to promote the valorisation of Indigenous knowledge.

Output 4.2.2 has been recast to remove establishment of early warning systems for climate risks, and associated activities focus on building system to support and build capacities for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem restoration.

### **5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project**

- a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?**
- b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?**
- c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).**
- d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and**

**collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed

**July 04, 2025**

- In the portal, please, respond to the question: "will the GEF agency play an execution role on this child project"?

Agency Response

15/10/2025

This is addressed and the appropriate response has been provided. Please note the portal provides the selection option for YES to the above question. The GEF agency will not play an execution role on this project.

**5.3 Core indicators**

**a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?**

**b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 20, 2025**

Addressed.

**November 10, 2025**

- The core indicators have been corrected with 1,000 ha under 3.2, 1,500 ha under 3.3, and 3,000 ha under 4.3 (SLM), except the CI 6 on carbon. Please, remove the value included.

**October 18, 2025**

- There are 2,500 ha under 3.2 (forests restored) and 2,500 ha under 3.3 (woodlands restored): are you referring to the same areas, as the total shows 2,500 ha under the Core Indicator 3. Please, clarify.

- You maintained 3,00 ha under 4.1 (land management to benefit biodiversity). Please, clarify the biodiversity benefits, especially the global important biodiversity.

- The project is financed by LD and BD. It is up to you if you want to maintain the monitoring of carbon soil to feed the target under the Core Indicator 6. However, with so low numbers, it might not be relevant to spend money and energy for such monitoring. Please, advise.

**July 04, 2025**

- Please, check the targets for each Core Indicators:
- There is no more targets for the CI3 and 4.
- The target for the CI6 (6.1) seems very low: 27,854 tCO2e. Please, justify.
- CI 11: the number of beneficiaries = 0. Please, correct.

Agency Response

**November/18/2025**

As guided, the CI 6 on carbon has been removed

November /04/2025

**5.3a:** Thank you for seeking clarification.

| Core Indicators | Number of ha |
|-----------------|--------------|
| CI 3.2 :        | 1000         |
| CI 3.3          | 1500         |
| Total           | 2500         |

1,000 ha forest areas will be restored in 2 LGA.

1,500 ha woodlands areas will be restored in 3 LGA

which giving a total of 2,500 ha.

**5.3b:** Core Indicator 4.1 (land management to benefit biodiversity) has been replaced with Core Indicator 4.3 (productive landscapes under sustainable land management, SLM). This change aligns with one of the key objectives of the Great Green Wall (GGW): to develop and promote SLM practices that combat desertification, land degradation, and drought. A total of 3,000 hectares has been reclassified under CI4.3.

**5.3c:** The comment has been well noted and appreciated ? and has informed the consideration not to include Carbon as a core indicator.

15/10/2025

i) The targets have been crossed checked and included (p.53);

ii) This is checked and completed as recommended (p.53)

iii) The target is based on the model output that considers the size of land for restoration and improved management and the type of soils in the target project area. Under the table of core indicators, additional information has been provided to justify the level of the target (p.53)

iv) The number of beneficiaries has been included that was inadvertently not entered (p.53).

#### 5.4 Risks

- a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
- b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 10, 2025**

Addressed.

**October 18, 2025**

- Whereas the ESS rating is Medium, the rating of the Environmental and Social risk category is Substantial. Please ensure these two ratings are aligned as per guidance in the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13).

- The ESS document is not signed. Please, complete.

- Nigeria is one of the countries listed on the WBG FY26 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations. Please provide conflict sensitive assessment/analysis of the project regarding the project and explain how conflict sensitivities are integrated into project design particularly safeguarding and equal opportunities for most vulnerable population including women and youth.

- The project mentioned that conflicts may arise among crop and pastoral communities in the project area, and the project may escalate existing farmer/herder tensions. Please include these risks including gender-based violence in Key risk table and SRIF and provide appropriate mitigation measures for these risks with clear responsibility, budget and timeline.

- In the stakeholder engagement plan, it is not clear how the local pastoralists and vulnerable populations were consulted during project design stage. Please provide further elaboration of consultations with pastoralist and vulnerable populations during project design stage and how the results of consultations were integrated into the project design.

**July 04, 2025**

- In the portal, the overall risk rating is "substantial" while in the SRIF document, it is mentioned "moderate". Please, make the information coherent.

Agency Response

**November/04/2025**

**5.4a:** Thank you for your observation. The rating of the Environmental and Social Risk has been revised to **Moderate**, ensuring consistency with the ESS rating in line with the guidance provided in the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13) document. The signed ESS document provided.

**5.4b:** The ESS is signed and provided

**5.4c** As recommended, a section, 'Conflict context in Northern Nigeria ? brief assessment?' (p. 43) has been included that provides a brief assessment and how the project has integrated the context in the design.

**5.4d** In addition to the response under 5.4c, additional information, including gender-based violence, has been added in the main key risk table (p.57-58) and key personnel with their respective budget to deal with conflicts are included in the budget and highlighted (p.44). SRIF has been revised to include GBV risk and mitigation measures provided

15/10/2025

The comment is noted and appreciated. The ratings have been harmonized to Moderate (p.57)

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

**6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities**

**6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?**

**b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed

**July 04, 2025**

We take note of the development of the project under the LD1 (SLM) and LD2 (restoration) objectives.

- However, just mentioning a list of texts and documents is not enough. The project should be designed under the National Drought Plan and the LDN targets (2017). A brief analysis of these documents is missing. Please, complete.

Agency Response

15/10/2025

The comment is well noted and appreciated. As per suggestion, a section, 'IDERRCN within the Nigeria's National Drought Plan and Land Degradation Neutrality?' has been introduced in the document that gives an analysis of the two documents and how the project will support the implementation of NDP and LDN ? highlighting also cross-cutting thematic areas (p. 57)

**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 comment at CEO Endorsement RequestAddressed.

Agency Response

**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 comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 10, 2025**

Addressed.

**October 18, 2025**

Sorry to come back on this item, but with 1.9 million US\$ from BD, you should please clearly identify WHICH of the 23 targets of the KMGBF them project contributes and HOW it contributes to the identified targets.

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NA

Agency Response

November /04/2025

6.3a: The comment is well appreciated, and as requested, a section, ?Alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)? (p.65) has been included together with a table that summarizes the relevant KMGBF target, description of the target and how IDERRCN contributes to the target.

**7 D. Policy Requirements**

**7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestGender, Stakeholder engagement, and safeguards.

Agency Response

**7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestAddressed

Agency Response

**7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 10, 2025**

Addressed.

**October 18, 202**

On stakeholder engagement: It is well noted that the agency has provided a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) that provides a Stakeholder Engagement Matrix. However, please ask agency to elaborate on the specific stakeholders, Local Farmers & Agro-pastoralists, Women & Youth Groups, Local Communities and cooperatives, and their individual and particular roles related to project objective and components, including planned project measures and activities to engage and consult these key stakeholders in project implementation.

**July 04, 2025**

Is it the final version of the stakeholder engagement plan? or is it a draft? please confirm.

Agency Response

November /04/2025

7.3a: As recommended, the SEP has been updated, and a table 'Stakeholder Roles and Engagement Measures in the IDERRCN Project' has been included in the document (p.2 of the SEP document).

15/10/2025

The updated version of the stakeholder engagement plan has been submitted along with this revised version of the CER.

**7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

**8 Annexes**

**Annex A: Financing Tables**

**8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: 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 comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

**Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response  
**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response  
**8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**  
**a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 20, 2025**

Addressed.

**November 10, 2025**

We take note of the responses. However, please, use your responses to correct the activities in the PPG table (annex D on the PPG).

**October 18, 2025**

**Quality Control: On the status of utilization of PPG:** Please provide more information on the two PPG costs shown below. Please indicate what document(s) the 'Drafter' developed. Please also specify the number and type (local, international, firm) of 'Consultancies for various thematic studies' were engaged, as well as identifying which thematic studies were conducted using PPG resources.

| Project Preparation Activities Implemented | Bu |
|--------------------------------------------|----|
| International consultant (Drafter)         |    |
| Consultancies for various thematic studies |    |
| National stakeholder consultations         |    |
| Validation and inception workshops         |    |
| <b>Total</b>                               |    |

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Yes

#### Agency Response

**November /18/2025**

As guided, the responses have been included in the PPG table (p.86).

November /04/2025

**8.2a:** The comment is well noted. In response, the International Consultant led the drafting of the CEO project document and supported the process of addressing internal UNEP PRC and GEF review comments. This work was carried out in close collaboration with local consultants, who conducted thematic studies ? including the development of the Gender Action Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and analyses related to climate, natural resource management, and policy ? which collectively informed the preparation of the CEO project document..

#### **8.3 Source of Funds**

**Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?**

**Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

#### Agency Response

**8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

**e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 10, 2025**

Addressed.

**October 18, 2025**

- In the table, the acronym NAGY has not been corrected in the portal, as requested below, and is still wrong. The national agency = NAGGW. Please, correct.

**July 04, 2025**

- Please, explain the distinction between "in-kind" and "grant" for the recurrent expenditures.

- Only one letter is logged in the table "confirmed cofinancing for the project".

- The letter named "Kebby State" in the Documents Tabs is actually the letter from NAGGW. Please, log the letter from the Kebbi State

- Second line: NAGY is a wrong acronym. The national agency = NAGGW.

## Agency Response

November /04/2025

8.4a: Thank you for the reminder ? this has been corrected ? The acronym has been removed, and the full name has been used.

15/10/2025

i) In-kind recurrent expenditures are non-cash resources (use of government infrastructure not paying rent, salaries of government staff not paid by the project but contributing time to project activities provided by the Nigerian government, states, or communities). The pervious grant for recurrent expenditures has been revised and changed to investment mobilized.

ii) Addressed, two co-financing letters provided

iii) Letter of Kebbi State logged

### **Annex B: Endorsements**

**8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:**

**Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestAddressed at PFD level

## Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestAddressed at PFD level

## Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 20, 2025**

Addressed.

**November 10, 2025**

There is a new letter of endorsement with the LD and BD amounts. However, you lost the footnote from the template. Please, correct.

**October 18, 2025**

The amounts in the LoE only mentioned LD resources, while you included LD and BD resources in the financing tables. The information in the LoE and the financing tables should be coherent: either correct the tables or ask for another LoE.

Agency Response

**November /18/2025**

Thank you for the comment. As advised, the correction has been made and a revised LOE has been drafted to include the footnote.

November /04/2025

Thank you for drawing our attention to the LD and BD resource allocations for the project. A new LoE has been issued to ensure coherence in the funding focal areas.

**Annex C: Project Results Framework**

**8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?**

**b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)**

**c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?**

**d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?**

**e) [If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework, inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed.

**July 04, 2025**

- Result framework and indicators included.

- See the comment on the core indicators, as they are missing.

Agency Response

15/10/2025

The team is thankful for drawing its attention to this the missing indicators. As noted above, the indicators have been included

**Annex E: Project map and coordinates**

**8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Understood. to be checked at PIR.

**July 04, 2025**

- Coordinates of 14 sites are available, as well as a map.
- Would you have a more accurate map to show the targeted landscapes?

Agency Response

15/10/2025

The comment is well noted. From the data collected during PPG baseline studies, the unit level was what has been presented in the table below the map ? that is, coordinates of selected areas below Local Government Areas. The "exact spot" coordinates are not available ? but these could be provided in the reports once activity implementation starts.

**Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating**  
**8.8 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**October 18, 2025**

Addressed.

**July 04, 2025**

- In the portal, the overall risk rating is "substantial" while in the SRIF document, it is mentioned "moderate". Please, make the information coherent.

Agency Response

**Annex G: GEF Budget template**

**8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?**

**b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?**

**c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**November 20, 2025**

- The revision has been done for MTR and TE. Please, note that the amounts (\$10,000 and \$15,000) seem low in comparison with other child projects under the same program.

**November 10, 2025**

- MTR and TE should be categorized as consultants instead of Training/workshop/meetings. Please revise the budget accordingly.
- Works item to cover seedlings, agroforestry inputs, materials, tools, etc?. should be categorized as Goods (equipment, materials, supplies) while the works item to cover

workshops, consultations, meetings, etc.) should be categorized as Training/workshop/meetings. Please revise the budget accordingly.

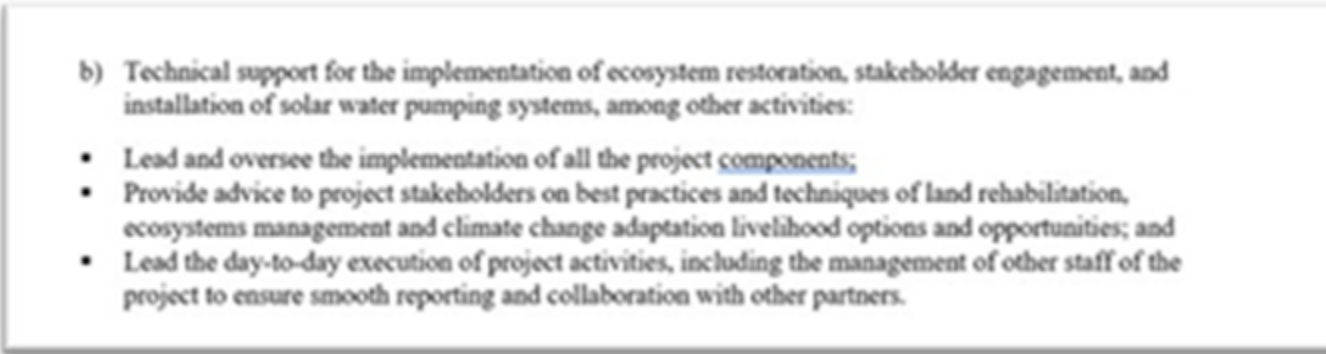
| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Explanatory notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Outcome 1.1 | Outcome 2.1 | Outcome 3.1 | Outcome 4.1 | Outcome 4.2 | Sub-Total | M&E | PMC | Total (US\$eq.) | Responsible Entity                                                          |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Works                | Restoration of 5,500 hectares of degraded lands using integrated sustainable land management (SLM) practices, enhancing ecosystem recovery and agro-sylvo-pastoral productivity in Kebbi State (Including climate-resilient agroforestry, providing tools, and training farmers). | Covers field implementation costs including procurement of seedlings, agroforestry inputs, fencing materials, hand tools, and payment for local labourers for planting and maintenance, field supervision costs, and extension agents supervising restoration plots.                                                                                         |             | 1,105,882   |             |             |             | 1,105,882 |     |     | 1,105,882       | National Agency for Great Green Wall (NAGGW) of Ministry of Environment (F) |
| Works                | Developing and implementing water and soil conservation infrastructure                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Construction of check dams, contour bunds, infiltration trenches, and rainwater harvesting systems; includes materials, labour, and engineering supervision. Includes construction of check dams, contour bunds, infiltration trenches, and small-scale water-harvesting structures, required eco-engineering materials, labour and engineering supervision. |             | 100,426     |             |             |             | 100,426   |     |     | 100,426         | NAGGW at FME                                                                |
| Works                | Developing and implementing community-based Ecosystem Management Plans                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Funds community workshops/community consultations, facilitation services, mapping materials, and local validation meetings for Ecosystem Management Plans in participating LGAs. Ensures community participatory planning beyond baseline government capacity.                                                                                               |             | 80,000      |             |             |             | 80,000    |     |     | 80,000          | NAGGW at FME                                                                |

**October 18, 2025**

Quality Control:

- Please note that the "detailed description" requested in the Budget Table should describe the specific cost item, and not just refer to project activities. For example, personnel positions should provide the job title for the position; or, for trainings, please indicate the specific event or series of events (webinars, in-person trainings, trainings-of-trainers, online course, etc) to enable an appraisal of the budget item. Please revise the Budget Table with this guidance in mind; as of right now it is not possible to make a value-for-money evaluation of many budget lines

- Please include the TOR in Annex I for the M&E Officer (Kebbi State) that appears in the Budget Table. Please also ensure that for all roles in the PMU, the duties are clearly specified in order to understand that role's contribution to the project components, PMC, and/or M&E budgets. For example, the National Project Coordinator TOR has the following section on "technical support" which describes project management tasks, not production of project component deliverables.



- According to the Budget Table, the Technical Advisor/NRM Manager is charged only to PMC, and not to the project component budget. From the TOR, it appears that this role duplicates that of the National Project Coordinator and therefore should be removed. Please revise accordingly.

- Please confirm that the "Principal Technical Assistant" in the budget (40,000\$) is the same position than the one described in the Terms of Reference under the title "Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Specialist. Please, make the staff titles coherent between the prodoc/CEO endorsement request and the budget.

- We are not seeing any budget lines related to the KM work expected with the Regional Coordination Project and eventually other country projects under this GEF Program to support the Great Green Wall Initiative. A minimum of participation in annual events should

be included every year + KM action and South-South Exchange. Please, revise the budget and the related description of outputs and activities under KM.

#### **July 04, 2025**

- Several items refers to monitoring or M&E, but are budgeted on technical components. Please, clarify:

o Deployment of a centralized digital data management platform and implementation of real-time data collection tools to enhance project monitoring, reporting, and decision-making across all intervention areas (outcome 2 1.1).

o Establishing project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems (outcome 4.2).

- The activity "convening annual multistakeholder review forums, for 350,536 USD is not clear. Please, explain and justify the costs.

- Knowledge Management (43,000): please explain the activity.

- The three lines under "national consultants" may not be under the right item: are all these lines for national consultants? 1) developing gender responsive local value chains for nature-based enterprises 450,000USD; 2) review institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms (50,000 USD), and 3) establishing monitoring, evaluation, and reporting systems (45,000 USD).

- Terms of reference for key project staff are available. However, please, explain and justify the need for the following positions together:

1) Project Assistant in Kebbi State + Support Officer in Kebbi State;

2) M&E Officer at national level and M&E Officer at Kebbi State.

#### Agency Response

#### **November 26, 2025**

**The MTR and TE budgets have been revised, and the allocations have been increased to USD 15,000 for the MTR and USD 25,000 for the TE, in line with the other child projects under the same programme, as requested. In addition, the project is implemented in only one state (Kebbi State) and has the lowest overall project funding USD 3,028,440 among the child projects.**

#### **November /18/2025**

Response: As guided, MTR and TE have been categorized as consultants, and the budget has been revised accordingly.

#### November /04/025

8.8a: As requested, explanatory notes have been added in the budget ? a column has been added (column D).

**8.8b:** As recommended, the ToRs have been included as ?Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Kebbi level)? (p.95). Also, in the table, ?PMU contribution to PMC and M&E budget? duties have been summarized (p.47).

**8.8c:** As recommended, the Technical Advisor role has been removed from PMC budget. It has been renamed as NRM Specialist, a consultancy position which will be more technical, while that of the National Coordinator will be largely administrative

**8.8d:** The comment is noted with thanks. Based on the recommendation above under 8.8c, this role has been removed from the PMC, and instead has been moved to be paid for through NRM-related components ? it will be a consultancy position. It has been maintained in the budget looking at the capacity requirements and the focus of the project.

**8.8e:** As advised, the budget line related to the KM work expected with the Regional Coordination Project and eventually other country projects has been included.

15/10/2025

The comment is well noted, and as has already been noted above, the rating has been harmonized (p.57).

**Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes**

**8.10 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.**

**b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.**

**c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

15/10/2025

We have very well taken note of the reviewer?s comment ? we appreciate drawing the team?s attention to explain why some monitoring or M&E related elements of the project have been budgeted under technical components. In response, we would like to clarify that though the activities are certainly monitoring or M&E-related, they require technical support beyond being part of project management. That is, in their design, they don?t only require being tracked for progress in achieving the project?s results at regular project intervals (which would be exclusively M&E role) but require actual technical support and investment at some stage of project implementation before they can even be tracked (triggering M&E role). This also explains the budget allocation, which if, put to M&E, would exceed the allowable M&E allocation level.

The activity ?convening annual multi-stakeholder review forums? has been unpacked to clarify the costs associated.

Acknowledging that KM activities are already covered in other budget lines, the budget allocation (Knowledge Management (\$43,000) has been removed from the current budget

As advised, the budget lines have been redone and spread across relevant categories.

The reason for having Support Officer and M&E at Kebbi State level was extensively discussed with the National Agency and Kebbi State governor representative during PPG. Given the security concerns in the north of the country, it was decided to have lean team in Kebbi. This will prove to be cost effective, but also ensure continued seamless communication and reporting with the National Agency in Abuja. Therefore, the particularity of the context demanded the presence of a Support Officer and M&E Officer in Kebbi State.

#### **Additional Annexes**

### **9. GEFSEC DECISION**

#### **9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation**

##### **Is the project recommended for approval**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

#### **November 27, 2025**

All points are addressed. The project is recommended for Council circulation and CEO endorsement.

#### **November 20, 2025**

All points are addressed (see the observation on the MTR and TE amounts): please provide a project document. In recent UNEP projects, we noted that the usual project document is the GEF Request for CEO endorsement Template + all annexes in a single document. Please, note that this project document, as well as the GEF request for CEO endorsement should be classified as "public" to allow their circulation to the Council.

#### **November, 10, 2025**

Not all the comments have been addressed. Please, check the remaining items on the M&E costs, the core indicators, the PPG table, and the revised LoE

#### **October 10, 2025**

Some points have not fully been addressed. The project cannot be recommended yet.

#### **October 18, 2025**

The project is in enough good shape to be shared to PO colleagues for the Quality Control in view of sending back an unified review.

#### **July 04, 2025**

The project cannot be recommended yet. Please, address the comments above.

#### **9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

#### **9.3 Review Dates**

|                                         | <b>CEO Approval</b> | <b>Response to Secretariat comments</b> |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>First Review</b>                     |                     | 7/4/2025                                |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> |                     | 10/18/2025                              |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> |                     | 11/10/2025                              |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> |                     | 11/20/2025                              |
| <b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b> |                     | 11/27/2025                              |