

Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10525

Countries

Global

Project Name

Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

3/22/2020

Review completed by PM

5/20/2020

Program Manager

Katya Kuang-Idba

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

PIF

Part I – Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/30/2020 - Yes. It is aligned with CCA-2.

Agency Response

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Not quite. The components are clear, but some other items must be addressed prior to clearing this item.

Agency Response

Co-financing

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, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/30/2020 - More clarification requested. In-kind cannot be categorized as Investment Mobilized according to the GEF co-financing guidelines. Please adjust. Additionally, indicative sources, types, and amounts of co-financing are expected at this stage - therefore please provide the names of the university, with the understanding that this may change.

GEFSEC, 4/17/2020 - The comment relating to the in-kind co-financing is cleared. However, at this stage and according to the description under Table C and in the co-financing initiatives section, it is still unclear how the UNEP co-financing is classified as a true grant. Please elaborate how this is true investment mobilized.

GEFSEC, 5/19/2020 - This is cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 15/04/2020: We have reverted to the original concept that the Universities will be selected during the PPG phase.

Investment mobilised will be the grant cost of the activities to be undertaken.

We have added additional information on the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) in the PIF, as follows: UNEP has now a network of about 150 universities/training institutions in Asia, Africa and LAC regions with whom we have delivered ToTs and workshops on Eco-DRR/CCA. UNEP's workplan is to reach 300 universities/training institutions in total by 2022. The focus has been on mainstreaming our training materials into teaching and training curricula in various institutions.

For 2020, HESI will be producing guidance on a normative framework as to what is a "green campus" constitutes as there is as yet no global definition. This would then support countries / regions that don't yet have sustainability best practice in place to receive guidance on how best to integrate sustainability as a "one institution approach"

Please note that with the change in execution arrangements, it will be possible to increase the co-financing beyond the current plan.

UNEP, 15/04/2020

The adjustments have been made to the categorization of the co-financing sources.

The universities primarily selected are all partner of a consortium of LDC Universities called the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC). They are:

1. International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Independent University, Bangladesh
2. School of Environmental Science and Management, Pokhara University, Nepal
3. Makerere University Centre for Climate Change Research and Innovation, Uganda, and
4. Faculty of Agronomy and Forestry Engineering Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique.

GEF Resource Availability

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion GEFSEC, 3/30/2020 - Yes.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes. This is a global project supporting the LDC Work Program, which the LDCF is mandated to do under the UNFCCC process.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion NA

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Clarification requested. The Secretariat understands that this is a global project, but this project should still submit the LDCF Core Indicators and Metadata worksheet circulated to agencies in April 2019.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

The core indicators and meta worksheet have been completed and attached to the portal submission.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Clarification requested. It seems this project could be tagged to UNFCCC-related taxonomy terms, please advise.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - Cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

More taxonomy items have been tagged including UNFCCC taxonomies.

Part II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes.

Agency Response

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - The baseline scenario is adequately described but there is no description of the baseline projects which are providing co-financing, as indicated in Table B. Please include a short description of those initiatives which are providing co-financing and how this proposed intervention is additional to those activities.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - This is cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 15/04/2020

Text has been added on the co-financing from the four universities.

The co-financing initiatives are described in section 1.4 of the PIF. The two UNEP co-financing initiatives for this project are the Youth and Education Alliance (YEA!) which is managed by the Youth, Education and Advocacy Team at UNEP and the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR). Between them, these initiatives will provide a) access to University IP and south-south collaboration between Universities in addition to b) course materials and access to a range of experiences in creating adaptation knowledge centres as a result of the support of both of these practices.

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes. The alternatives scenario provides a coherent framework presenting project outcomes and outputs which support the delivery of the project objective.

Agency Response

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - More information requested. It's not immediately clear how the proposed initiative is additional to the existing activities supported by co-financing, making it difficult to determine the specific additionality of the proposed intervention. Additionally, only the UNEP co-financing portion is listed here, but not framed as providing context specifically for additionality. Further clarification: what is the relevance of the Eco-DRR project?

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - Cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

Kindly refer to the response above on these points.

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes. This is a capacity building project that will result in numerous adaptation benefits manifesting in the form of increased capacity by LDCs to address the negative impacts of climate change.

Agency Response

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - More information requested. Innovation and potential for scaling are well supported in this project concept - The project is innovative in that it addresses structurally-reinforced capacity deficits which serve as an obstacle to scaled-up delivery of climate finance as well as the development of country-driven approaches to climate change adaptation. However, the project supports the establishment of various entities and services - how will these be sustained beyond project closure?

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - This is noted and cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP, 15/04/2020

The sustainability strategy is detailed in Section 1.6 of the PIF, which is essentially to embed the technical services in the expertise and interests of the University, to develop a service price list, developing a robust training approach and creating entry points for international cooperation. Section 1.6 goes into significant detail on these points.

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes. An indicative list of academic institutions are included as stakeholders and will be expanded upon by PPG. The Secretariat would, however, encourage the project developers to include a broader and more inclusive set of stakeholders to be engaged as part of the project development process.

Agency has noted the above.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

Stakeholder groups involved in the project will include government planners, University researchers; partnering think-tanks, the LDC group of political focal points. In addition, the design team will work to identify regional stakeholders (e.g. regional development banks and other institutions) as potential partners to provide technical support to enhance the think-tanks' capabilities beyond the life of the project. This has been added to the PIF. Stakeholder groups involved in the project will include government planners, University researchers; partnering think-tanks, the LDC group of political focal points. In addition, the design team will work to identify regional stakeholders (e.g. regional development banks and other institutions) as potential partners to provide technical support to enhance the think-tanks' capabilities beyond the life of the project.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - More information requested. There is very non-specific information regarding gender in the PIF. A clearer articulation of the specific gender dimension relevant to the proposed activities and the project's overall ambition would be appreciated. For example, is this an issue observed amongst practitioners in LDCs and if so, how will this project ensure that it will be properly taken stock of and addressed?

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - Additional information is appreciated and this is cleared, with the understanding that this issue will be explored in detail during PPG and that specific Gender Action Plans will be delivered following this.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

The project selection of the four universities and country governments to work with will be done at the PPG stage and it is then that we will carry out an assessment of gender equity in the institutions the project will work with and develop the action plan. The gender action plan will provide guidance in terms of ensuring gender balance and representation in all project activities, including training materials, training implementation, thinktank operation, and knowledge creation.

The project's governance arrangements will ensure gender equity. Training programmes will enable female leaders to develop skills related to climate change adaptation. The project will include monitoring indicators and targets to ensure equitable gender representation in the project's capacity building activities.

Additional text has been added to the PIF on the gender dimension of the co-financing. As a part of the project to build the engagement of government staff in this project and to build the profile of the University in providing technical services, each year these universities will provide 4 full time Scholarship opportunities to prospective government officials, policy makers and practitioners in the country or in other LDCs, who have an interest in working on climate change related issues. At least 50% of these scholarships will reserved for prospective female candidates. The funds required to facilitate these scholarships will roughly amount to an annual sum of USD 12,000 per university, which sums up to a total of USD 96,000 for four universities for a total time period of two years. The suggested funds will be contributed from the participating universities own budget.

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

Risks

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Clarifications requested. Sustainability is one of numerous risks which present in project implementation. Please provide the standard risk table with relevant rating and mitigation measures which provide a comprehensive overview of the potential risks encountered by this project. Please ensure this information is actually in the body of the portal submission.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - Cleared. As per the Guidelines on the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards, the Secretariat, in its review, is satisfied with the availability and completeness of the provided indicative information on environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project or program and response measures to address identified risks and impacts.

Agency Response

For an analysis of safeguards risks, please see the 'Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note (ESERN)' uploaded into the documents section. As this is a capacity development project and global, the project is deemed to of low risk.

UNEP,15/04/2020

The standard risk table has been added to the PIF and to the portal submission.

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 3/31/2020 - The LDCF and the SCCF are supporting numerous global initiatives, including the NAP GSP, and two other capacity building projects for LDCs. Please indicate whether this project will coordinate with these initiatives, which are at different stages of implementation.

GEFSEC, 4/17/2020 - The information is appreciated and noted. This is cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP,15/04/2020

There are three projects under the NAP GSP that are funded by the SCCF and the LDCF: two NAP support projects for LDCs and non-LDC countries and the 'Building negotiation capacity among LDCs'. The two NAP support projects have generated training materials which can be further developed in this next NAP GSP project. The projects have also created communities of practice in government that can be engaged in the development and testing of the thinktank model. The thinktank model will identify and design project concepts and proposals that are consistent with the priorities in the NAPs and other national strategy documents relevant to adaptation. The LDC Group website and the knowledge networks developed under the 'Negotiators' project will be used to disseminate information about the project and the model to other LDCs and beyond.

This response has been added to the PIF in section
Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - More information requested. While national strategies and plans are not relevant here, please indicate how exactly this project is aligned with the LDC work program.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - The information is appreciated, however, considering this is a main criteria relating to eligibility for LDCF funding, the Secretariat would appreciate some text in the submission on the portal tying the below to directly relates to the guidance on the Work Program, found here: <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/ldc-portal/ldc-work-programme-of-2001-as-updated-in-2018> and here: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a2e.pdf#page=7>

GEFSEC, 5/19/2020 - Noted an cleared.

Agency Response

UNEP: 150520: More information has been added on how the project aligns with the LDC work programme as outlined in: FCCC/CP/2018/10/Add.2

UNEP,15/04/2020

The proposal addresses three of the LDC long-term initiatives. These initiatives focus on several key areas central to LDCs, including access to renewable energy, capacity building in climate research, and development of long-term strategies in effective adaptation, resilience and development.

The first and main one being: **Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC)**. LUCCC is a South-South Consortium of 10 Universities from across LDCs to enhance knowledge on climate change through climate capacity building, with a focus on adaptation measures, such as education and research. LUCCC aims to network and develop the capacity of South-South universities to develop common research projects and implement teaching and training programs in different climate change aspects. It is a two-way collaborative capacity building program which will offer help to others and seek support from others to build capacity within LDCs.

The proposal will also address the **LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)**, which will outline effective adaptation and resilience mechanisms to further build national institutions, domestic systems and capabilities, and wider national efforts to address poverty.

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Yes a KM component is built into the project design. More detail articulating the KM approach for capturing and disseminating the knowledge generated by this project would be appreciated at PPG.

Agency Response

UNEP, 15/04/2020

Noted. This will be developed during the PPG phase.

Part III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country’s GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Note on LOE: The agency is aware that if this project intends to implement LDCF-financed activities in specific countries, LOEs signed by the OFPs of those respective countries will be required. At this stage the beneficiary countries have not yet been identified, but if they are identified, the LOEs will be required at CEO Approval.

Agency Response

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) 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 in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 3/31/2020 - Not yet. Please refer to flagged items and resubmit.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2020 - Please respond to the 2 remaining flagged items and the discussion had on 12 May 2020 and resubmit for consideration.

As the agency knows, the implementation and execution roles on GEF projects are meant to be separate per policy and guideline. The GEFSEC will analyze any requests for dual role playing by an agency at the time of CEO endorsement and only approve those cases that it deems warranted on an “exceptional” basis. We strongly encourage the agency to look at third party options as a preferred way forward. We also strongly encourage the agency to discuss any and all options for execution that do not include the government with the GEFSEC early in the PPG phase. The technical clearance of this PIF in no way endorses any alternative execution arrangement. In line with GEF policy, to grant an exception, it is necessary for the agency to provide justification as to why UNEP, and no other organization or third party agency, can carry out the executing functions.

GEFSEC, 5/19/2020 - The agency has adequately responded to the Secretariat's comments with sufficient detail for this stage of project development and this project is being recommended for technical clearance.

Note on LOE: The agency is aware that if this project intends to implement LDCF-financed activities in specific countries, LOEs signed by the OFPs of those respective countries will be required. At this stage the beneficiary countries have not yet been identified, but if they are identified, the LOEs will be required at CEO Approval.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

	PIF Review	Agency Response
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval

The UNEP/LDCF project (GEF ID 10525), *Strengthening Endogenous Capacities of Least Developed Countries to Access Finance for Climate Change Adaptation*, aims to strengthen capacities of LDCs to effectively adapt to climate change by fostering the development of sustained endogenous technical services for: project development, policy mainstreaming, and creating an enabling environment. The project will achieve its objective through the delivery of three components: (i) Collaborative mechanism for sustained endogenous capacity on climate change adaptation finance; (ii) Technical capacity building for LDC governments; and (iii) Scaling up. The project will deliver adaptation-focused policy and technical service providers through twinning arrangements in universities in four LDCs, which will become a network for the provision of resources on endogenous capacity on climate change adaptation finance. The project is innovative in that it addresses structurally-reinforced capacity deficits which serve as an obstacle to scaling up the delivery of climate finance as well as the development of country-driven approaches to climate change adaptation. The project invests LDC-owned, LDC-hosted, and LDC-staffed institutions which are expected to not only increase the effectiveness of climate adaptation policy development, mainstreaming, and financing in LDCs; but also to reduce the cost of developing fundable projects. The project's investment in these institutions will also contribute to the emergence of adaptation professionals, which will increase LDC ownership and self-sufficiency on mainstreaming adaptation.