

Umbrella Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD ? Umbrella IV

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11970

Countries
Global (Angola, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda)

Project Name
Umbrella Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD ? Umbrella IV

Agencies
UNEP

Date received by PM
7/15/2025

Review completed by PM
8/22/2025

Program Manager
Alla Ljungman

Focal Area
Land Degradation

Project Type
EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)
Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

August 22, 2025

Addressed. Cleared.

August 13, 2025

1) - 3) have been addressed. Cleared.

Please note that there are still some lines and table (Potential stakeholders) in Section D and some lines in Section E are off the margins (see the screenshot below).

D: Institutional Framework ⓘ

Describe the institutional arrangements for implementation of the enabling activity. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

UNEP as the Implementing Agency: shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner.

Previous experience with the last three Umbrella projects demonstrates the complexities of coordinating individual projects' efforts across multiple countries, each with distinct financial and technical requirements. The UNEP Ecosystems Division will provide essential execution support to participating countries.

As in past GEF cycles, a dedicated Programme Management Officer will oversee UNEP's technical assistance to 8 countries within this Umbrella project. This includes guiding the development of legal agreements, such as Small-Scale Financial Agreements (SSFAs), coordinating access to enabling activity funds, and supporting countries with technical and financial reporting. The SSFAs outline the terms and conditions governing the collaboration between UNEP and participating countries for the implementation of Enabling Activity projects. The project document serves as an annex to these legal agreements. To streamline fund transfers, a dedicated UNCCD Enabling Activities financial assistant will be recruited within UNEP's finance team.

July 17, 2025

Yes, except:

- 1) Please change the project title to "Umbrella Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting Under the UNCCD" as 8 Letters of Endorsement (LoEs) indicate.
- 2) The type of report need to be indicated at the bottom of the table of the Section 1. Please include the type of report and the expected submission date to the convention. Please make sure that they are consistent with the Umbrella I, Umbrella II and Umbrella III.

Type of Report(s): ⓘ		Expected Report Submission to Convention:	
----------------------	---	---	---

3) Please note that the ?Project Executing Partner(s)? section is incomplete: please add one row per executing partner as included in the Letters of Endorsement (e.g. Designated National Entities in Angola, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Regional Technical Entities and **UNEP**).

Project Executing Entity(s): ⓘ	National/Regional Technical Entities	Executing Partner Type:	Government
--------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------	------------

Please note that the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view (which is the document circulated to Council) has Section 2 pages off the margins. Please amend (you can contact ITS for help if needed).

Agency's Comments

08/15/2025

Section 2 of the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view has been formatted again. It appears there is a bug in the system as we have tried all we could to format but some lines are still overrunning the margins. We will request for ITS for help.

08/12/2025

- 1) The project title has been changed to "Umbrella Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting Under the UNCCD".
- 2) The type of report has been indicated at the bottom of the table as ?UNCCD National report?.
- 3) A row has been added for each executing partner as included in the Letters of Endorsement for the 8 countries.
- 4) The CEO Endorsement Request Portal view Section 2 has been formatted to be within margin.

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2025

N/A

Agency's Comments

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

July 17, 2024

Yes.

Agency Response

**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments

July 17, 2024

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

August 22, 2025

Addressed. Cleared.

August 13, 2025

The Angola, Niue and North Macedonia OFPs' e-mails accepting the footnote are noted added to the project documents. Could you please add them to the original LoEs, so that they can be viewed together.

July 18, 2025

Yes. However, LoEs from **Angola, Niue and North Macedonia** have the footnote "Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate" deleted. Please either obtain an email from the OFP explicitly accepting this assessment or to obtain a new LoE with the footnote.

Agency's Comments

August 14, 2025

The footnote has been added to the LOE's for Angola, Niue and North Macedonia.

08/12/2025

An email has been obtained from the GEF OFP of Angola, Niue and North Macedonia explicitly accepting the footnote "Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate". The emails have been uploaded to the GEF Portal under the Documents section.

Response to Comments

Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)
Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments

July 18, 2025

Yes.

Agency's Comments
Environmental and Social Safeguards.

If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments
**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION.
Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?**

Secretariat's Comments

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	7/18/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	7/24/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)	8/13/2025	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		