

Minamata initial assessment and national action plan for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Afghanistan

GEF Secretariat Review for Enabling Activity – GEF - 7

Basic Information

GEF ID

10631

Countries

Afghanistan

Project Title

Minamata initial assessment and national action plan for the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Afghanistan

GEF Agency(ies)

UNIDO

Agency ID

UNIDO: 190145

GEF Focal Area(s)

Chemicals and Waste

Program Manager

Yuki Shiga

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07.24.2020:

Yes. This is an enabling activity for the Minamata Convention and National Action Plan for ASGM.

Agency Response

Project description summary

Is the project structure/ design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08.10.2020:

Cleared. Earlier comment(s) are appropriately addressed.

07.24.2020:

Needs further clarification.

1. National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) is stipulated as the executing partner for this project in the LoE. If NEPA is a government agency, then 'Executing Partner Type' selected must be "Government"

government agency, then Executing Partner type selected must be Government .

2. MIA is indicated under 'Type of Reports'; however, NAP is not. If this EA also covers NAP, this should be also listed in the respective section.

Agency Response

- 1) NEPA is a governmental agency. The executing partner type has been changed to "Government".
- 2) The NAP has been listed as report to be submitted.

Co-financing

Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified [and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?]

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request No co-financing is required for this EA.

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes. It is within the recommended budget of \$500k (MIA: \$200k + NAP: \$500k).

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request This is the first Minamata Convention Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for ASGM.

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities. Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Stakeholders.

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08.10.2020:

Cleared. Earlier comment(s) are appropriately addressed.

07.24.2020:

Needs further clarification. M&E budget indicated in 'Monitoring and evaluation' component of the project does not seem to match with those detailed in the attached document entitled 'Annex B Budget 190145 Afghanistan final july 2020'.

Agency Response

The budget allocated for M&E is 25,000.— USD.

The document "Annex B Budget 190145 Afghanistan final July 2020" has been revised.

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/ Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

A reference to the ESS has been included at the end of Section B. Enabling activity goals, objectives and activities. UNIDO conducted an ESS screening which concluded that the project is likely to have minimal or no adverse social and/or environmental impacts. The screening has been attached as project supporting document.

Some additional information have been included on safety and security.

1) The log frame (Annex C) has been complemented with 4 assumptions related to the security situation in Afghanistan.

2) Under section E, we included a reference to the UNDSS regulation. Taking the current situation in Afghanistan into account, we reduced

the number of expected country visits from three to one. Further, the application of these regulations in the project implementation and execution were elaborated in a newly added annex D. Please see below as a reference:

"Globally, follow-up and monitoring will be carried out by UNIDO, via calls, virtual and other meeting, 1-3 country visits, ~~pending on the security situation and the travel policies~~, in line with the UNDSS rules, regulations, recommendations and guidelines as well with travel restrictions in the country and the relevant GEF policies and guidelines (c.f. Annex D)."

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

08.10.2020:

This EA is recommended for technical clearance.

ESS has been included included at the end of Section B.

07.24.2020:

Not yet. Please refer to the review items and resubmit for consideration.

Also, this EA does not seem to lend itself to ESS, as this EA appears to focus primarily on desk studies and report preparation.

If so, please submit an email stating the non-applicability of the ESS to this EA.

<https://www.thegef.org/documents/environmental-and-social-safeguard-standards>

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Response to Secretariat comments

First Review	7/24/2020
Additional Review (as necessary)	8/10/2020
Additional Review (as necessary)	
Additional Review (as necessary)	
Additional Review (as necessary)	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

This enabling activity will assist the country in conducting mercury inventories, understand the sectoral consumption of mercury and mercury containing products. The Afghanistan acceded to the Minamata Convention on 2 May 2017 and meets the eligibility criteria for access to and utilization of financial resources. This is the first project implemented in The Bahamas aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Minamata Convention. The project is a country-driven initiative in conformity with the Minamata Initial Assessment overall strategies, policies and guidance approved by the Conference of the Parties in its first session.

This activity will also strengthen the capacity of the country to understand issues related to the implementation of the Minamata Convention.

This project will also help the country to develop a National Action Plan to reduce the use and emissions of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) and processing sector. ASGM is the largest emitter of mercury globally and is included as a priority under the Minamata Convention.

Article 7 of the Convention requires National Action Plans for countries with ASGM sectors and this project will directly respond to that convention obligation.

