



# Integration of Natural Capital Accounting Into Lesotho's Policy And Decision Making For Sustainable Development

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10979

**Countries**

Lesotho

**Project Name**

Integration of Natural Capital Accounting Into Lesotho's Policy And Decision Making For Sustainable Development

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

8/1/2023

**Review completed by PM**

8/7/2023

**Program Manager**

Jurgis Sapijanskas

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

MSP

## PIF

### CEO Endorsement

#### Part I ? Project Information

##### Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 10/20/2023 - Cleared.

JS 10/11/2023

A - Please align the list of executing partners with that of the rest of the document. We understand the main executing agency is the Ministry of Defense, National Security and Environment, which should thus appear on the first page.

Other Executing Partner(s) ⓘ	Executing Partner Type
by the Ministry of Water, Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation and Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture	Government

B- With the revisions of this submission, several tables are now off-margin (Annex A / Results Framework, and Annex B). Please correct.

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared, thank you.

JS 8/7/2023 -


1- Rio markers: Please tag the project with a 2 on Biodiversity and 0 on Land degradation.

2- Please correct the expected completion date to 08/31/2026 to meet the expected 36 months duration of the project.

3- Please ensure all tables are within the portal margins (ITS can help as needed). The Results Framework is off margins.

Agency Response

**Response to the 3rd GEF review comments raised on 10 Oct 2023**

<p><b>1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?</b>          Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request          JS 10/11/2023</p> <p>A - Please align the list of executing partners with that of the rest of the document. We understand the main executing agency is the Ministry of Defense, National Security and Environment, which should thus appear on the first page:</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 10px auto;">  </div>	<p>list of executing partners has been aligned with that of the rest of the document.</p> <p>The executing agency has been revised to the Ministry of Defense, National Security and Environment (MDNSE) in line with the revision of cabinet ministries in Lesotho issued in April 2023. The MDNSE hosts the Department for Environment and the department for Forestry and Soil Conservation, Range, and Meteorology), among other departments.</p> <p>The Ministry of Natural Resources hosts the Department of Water Affairs, which is the other Executing Agency.</p>
<p>B- With the revisions of this submission, several tables are now off-margin (Annex A / Results Framework, and Annex B). Please correct.</p>	<p>The tables have been put within the margins in the portal</p>

cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?</b>          Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request          JS 8/7/2023 -</p> <p>1- Rio markers: Please tag the project with a 2 on Biodiversity and 0 on Land degradation.</p>	<p>this has been done in th</p>
<p>2- Please correct the expected completion date to 08/31/2026 to meet the expected 36 months duration of the project.</p>	<p>this has been done in th</p>
<p>3- Please ensure all tables are within the portal margins (ITS can help as needed). The Results Framework is off margins.</p>	<p>this has been done in th</p>

**Project description summary**

**2. 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 JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response

**Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**Co-financing**

**4. 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

**JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.**

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- We note that the co-financing expected at PIF stage from the IA has not materialized. Please explain.

The rest is cleared.

Agency Response

**cleared on 9/22/2023**

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

**4. 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

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- We note that the co-financing expected at PIF stage from the IA has not materialized. Please explain.

The rest is cleared.

Yes, we agree that the co-financing has not materialized.

#### GEF Resource Availability

**5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Project Preparation Grant**

**6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Core indicators**

**7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- Please explain why only 93,521 ha are reported under core indicator 4 out of the 1,506,419 ha of the Senqu Catchment, and explain under table F in the portal entry to what these 93,521 ha correspond, i.e. provide a short narrative describing how the target was derived, what specific and direct impact the project will have over that surface area. Please clarify there and throughout the project document the difference in the the types of interventions and thus anticipated impact between the two sub-catchment representing 93,521 ha, the other priority sub-catchment identified in the project map, and the entire 1,506,419 ha catchment.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

**7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- Please explain why only 93,521 ha are reported under core indicator 4 out of the 1,506,419 ha of the Senqu Catchment, and explain under table F in the portal entry to what these 93,521 ha correspond, i.e. provide a short narrative describing how the target was derived, what specific and direct impact the project will have over that surface area. Please clarify there and throughout the project document the difference in the types of interventions and thus anticipated impact between the two sub-catchment representing 93,521 ha, the other priority sub-catchment identified in the project map, and the entire 1,506,419 ha catchment.

The following explanations are provided in the CEO AR, the prodoc and the

The Assessment Area is reduced to cover the two target sub-catchments (the two sub-catchments under the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) for the Senqu (a River) a national programme for the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (MNRS).

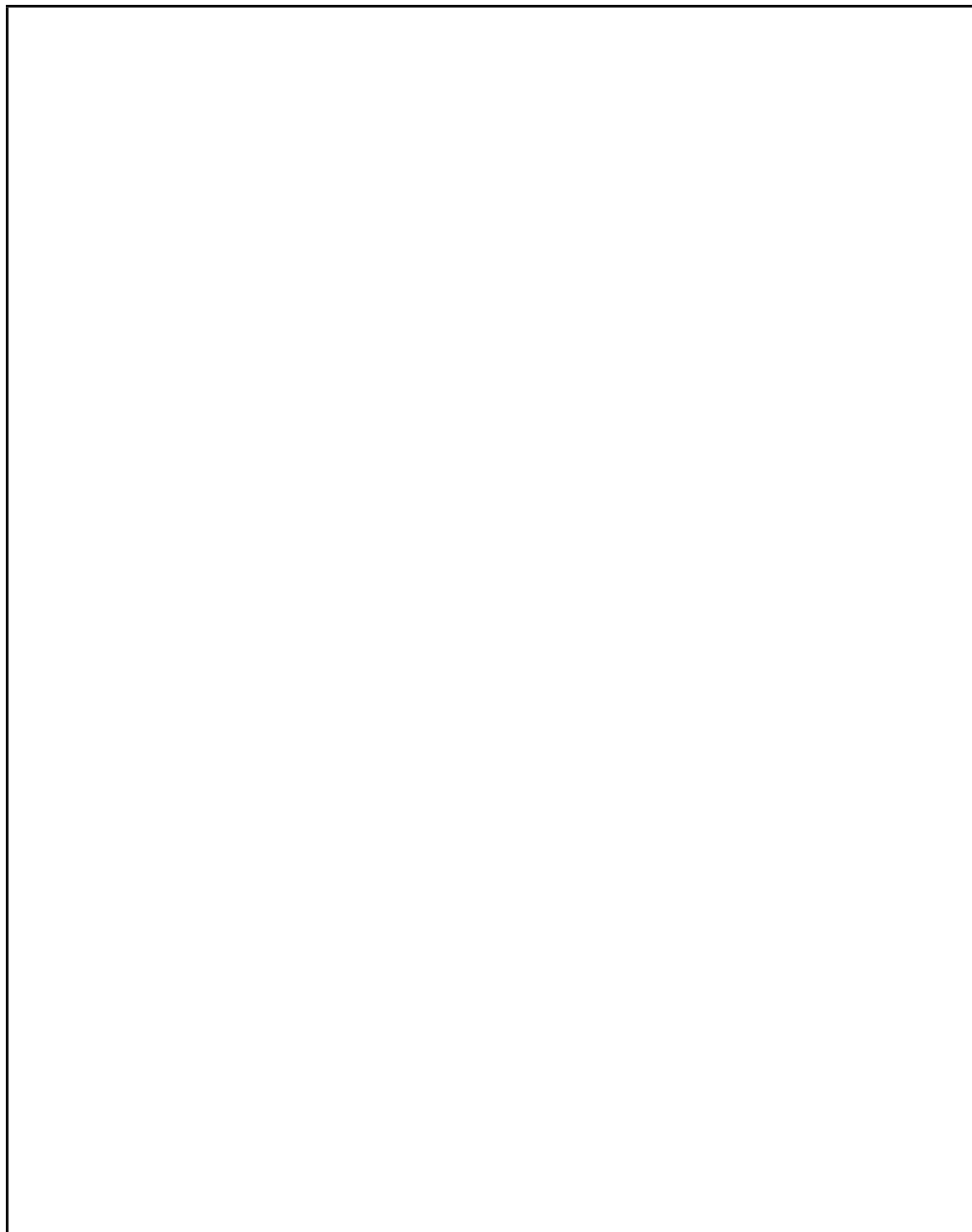
The methodology proposed is based on the Accounting of Ecosystem Services (AES) which allows the ability to collect spatial data on the available resources data could be collected from just the two sub-catchments and leverage on the activities of the

The selected pilot sub-catchments are part of the integrated catchment management (ICM) for the Senqu (a River) NCA piloting two national NCA up-scaling.

Khubelu (SC7 24,851.1ha) is one of the major sources of water in Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa. Khubelu is one of the major sources of water in Lesotho-South Africa water catchment. Senqunyane (SC18 63,774.0 ha) is a main tributary to Mohale Dam and a main tributary to the Senqu Catchment. Both areas fall within the Maseru alpine areas forming part of the Maseru National Park. The total targeted area for integrated catchment management is the two (2) sub-catchments (Khubelu and Senqunyane).

Anticipated impact: Data collection and land accounts will inform the development of the Strategy. Implementation of the Strategy will include tracking of the state of water resources and private sector development in the catchment for policy purposes. Development of the Strategy will include policy review.

The two immediate impacts of the Strategy will be planning as part of the catchment management and ecosystem services available and associated management and stakeholder involvement in the catchment. Salient features such as gender and youth are included. In the long-term, the Strategy will include planning and utilisation of the Strategy as part of the national NCA system.



**Part II ? Project Justification**

**1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?**



Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023 -

1-The PIF review sheet, at the time of PIF clearance, included the request that during PPG the barrier analysis be refined to identify what are the precise barriers to NCA adoption and practical use to mainstream biodiversity in development planning and management frameworks. Yet, the barrier analysis is identical to that of PIF stage, and is still for the most part limited to lack of awareness about NCA (with overlaps between barriers 1 and 3) and lack of use of NCA. Please revise or justify.

Agency Response

cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Part II ? Project Justification</b></p> <p><b>1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?</b></p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023 - 1-The PIF review sheet, at the time of PIF clearance, included the request that during PPG the barrier analysis be refined to identify what are the precise barriers to NCA adoption and practical use to mainstream biodiversity in development planning and management frameworks. Yet, the barrier analysis is identical to that of PIF stage, and is still for the most part limited to lack of awareness about NCA (with overlaps between barriers 1 and 3) and lack of use of NCA. Please revise or justify.</p>	<p>Section of barriers in the strengthened in both the Limited resources are one of NCA. Limited mainstreaming policies (i.e., NSDP). Low prioritization of b Weak coordination bet entities.</p>
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**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

## Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023 -

We commend the efforts made during PPG to design a project that will build institutional capacity across multiple ministries, embed NCA in the BOS and institutionalize training in a national university.

1- According to the section on GEBs, the project will improve management of only two pilot sub-catchments (Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments). However, in the alternative scenario, "all the sub-catchment management and the overall catchment management plan for the USC are to be reviewed, revised, and updated" under output 2.1.3. Also, the map provided identifies 6 priority sub-catchments. Please clarify through a response in the review sheet and edits in the portal entry.

2- The PIF review sheet requested that PPG further refine "the link between the NCAA and the target policy decision, i.e. watershed management in the Upper Senqu catchment. The specific policy question and instrument (e.g. watershed management plan) that is targeted will have to be clearly defined, and the project's approach to improve watershed management in practice through NCAA will have to be detailed".

We note that the instruments (integrated catchment management plan and sub catchment management plans) have been clearly identified. However, please clarify more specifically the specific management issue(s) that is/are to be informed by NCAA through "2.1.2 Water and land accounts are used to design operational strategies and guide integrated catchment management plan for the Upper Senqu Catchment". If the precise management issues have not been identified at PPG stage, please ensure that they are identified in the very first step of implementation to further guide NCAA development. Please also consider including activities dedicated to identify the most relevant policy & practical questions to which NCAA can respond to as part of the policy dialogues of component 2.

Agency Response

cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

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The six (6) sub-catchments of the national ICM program (two (2) mentioned above).

The description in the alternative project data collection and the scaling up plans will be for the sub-catchments.

Data collected through the IWRM Strategy will be used to inform development of land resources information interventions for sustainable water accounts will also be used.

The precise natural resource data will be collected during early project implementation level consultations.

**4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- According to the section on GEBs, the project will improve management of only two pilot subcatchments (Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments). However, in the alternative scenario, "all the sub-catchment management and the overall catchment management plan for the USC are to be reviewed, revised, and updated" under output 2.1.3. Also, the map provided outlines 6 priority sub-catchments. Please clarify what will be piloted in the Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments that justifies reporting their surface area as a target under core indicator 4, while the rest of the Upper Senqu Catchments, including the other priority subcatchments are not.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023 -</p> <p>1- According to the section on GEBs, the project will improve management of only two pilot subcatchments (Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments). However, in the alternative scenario, "all the sub-catchment management and the overall catchment management plan for the USC are to be reviewed, revised, and updated" under output 2.1.3. Also, the map provided outlines 6 priority sub-catchments. Please clarify what we be piloted in the Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments that justifies reporting their surface area as a target under core indicator 4, while the rest of the Upper Senqu Catchments, including the other priority sub-catchments are not.</p>	<p>The six (6) sub-catchments under the national ICM program are the two (2) mentioned above.</p> <p>Clarification made in the response to the GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023.</p>
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**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023 -

1- Scaling up: According to the section on GEBs, the project will improve management of only two pilot subcatchments (Khubelu and Senqunyane sub-catchments). However, in the alternative scenario, "all the sub-catchment management and the overall catchment management plan for the USC are to be reviewed, revised, and updated" under output 2.1.3. Also, the map provided identifies 6 priority sub-catchments. Please clarify throughout the CEO endorsement request the replication/ up-scaling strategy of the project, better explaining what is the scale and scope of the pilots, and plans and concrete activities that will foster up-scaling first at the USC scale and then further in other areas of the country. Please notably consider adding activity(ies) dedicated to identifying favorable areas in the country for replications and kickstarting the replication process there.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 -

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Under the project a data...  
be used to guide decisio...  
Collection of geo-refer...  
complemented by use o...  
The data generated will...  
simplified information o...  
The project brings valu...  
payment for ecosystem...  
sustainable utilization o...  
The national NCA Data...  
national natural resourc...  
Under the project, short...  
programs for communiti...  
ensure sustainability an...  
A simple data managem...  
communities and local...  
other catchments.  
Tailored training in NC...  
IWRM programme at th

**Project Map and Coordinates**

**Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023-

1- Cleared for what relates to the map. However, please update the following paragraph:

The EU-GIZ funded Integrated Watershed Management Project is being implemented in Lesotho and has selected two priority sub-catchment in the Upper Senqu Catchment, which has a total area of 15,064.19 km<sup>2</sup>. The first sub-catchment is named Khubelu, with an area of 27,842ha and 1,104 inhabitants (541F, 563M) and the Senqunyane sub-catchment with 65,679ha and 3,554 inhabitants (1,716F, 1,838M). Although this needs to be further

investigated during the PPG, it is suggested to make use of the existing data and focus on these 2 sub-catchments.

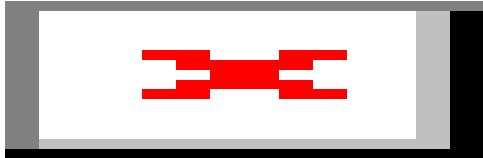
This would lead to a target of combined 93,521ha for Core Indicator 4, area of landscape under improved practices and 4,658 direct beneficiaries (2,257F, 2,401M) for Core Indicator 11.

2- Please also consider inserting the geographic location of the sites ? provided under section

1b - directly under the dedicated ?GEO Location? data entry field in the portal.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023-</p> <p>1- Cleared for what relates to the map. However, please update the following paragraph:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p>The total targeted total area for the (Senqunyane). The 24,851.1ha, which populations in the correct.</p>
<p>2- Please also consider inserting the geographic location of the sites ? provided under section 1b - directly under the dedicated ?GEO Location? data entry field in the portal.</p>	<p>the geographic portal</p>

**Child Project**

**If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
NA

Agency Response **N/A**  
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

JS 10/11/2022 - Cleared. We note the "GEF/UNEP-PPG-NCA STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS REPORT" uploaded with this submission.

JS 9/22/2023 - We note the uploaded stakeholder engagement plan.

A- However, there is no detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase, neither in the portal entry, nor in the SEP and the ProDoc. Please provide.

JS 8/7/2023-

1- We failed to find the stakeholder engagement plan announced as an annex in the portal entry. Please provide.

Agency Response

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 22/9/2023**

<p><b>Stakeholders</b>          JS 9/22/2023 - We note the uploaded stakeholder engagement plan.           A- However, there is no detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase, neither in the portal entry, nor in the SEP and the ProDoc. Please provide.</p>	<p>The stakeholders' consultations report is now attached.</p>
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**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>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?</b>          Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request          JS 8/7/2023-           1- We failed to find the stakeholder engagement plan announced as an annex in the portal entry. Please provide.</p>	<p>the stakeholder engagement analysis report and upl</p>
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## 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

JS 10/11/2022 - Cleared.

JS 9/22/2023

1- This comment has not been addressed. The project is still tagged as contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, when it does not seem obvious how the project would do so in practice. Please either remove the tag or explain how the project is to do so in a significant way.

Other comment cleared.

JS 8/7/2023

1- Please explain how the project is to contribute to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources:

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? ⓘ

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making ⓘ Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women ⓘ Yes

2- On Output 4.1.1 Project gender- disaggregated M&E system in place, please replace gender-disaggregated with gender-responsive M&E system. Gender-disaggregation (non-binary) or sex-disaggregation (binary) only refers to quantitative monitoring of results (e.g., distribution of beneficiaries by sex/gender). To capture other qualitative gender-related results to address gender inequalities/promote women's empowerment, the M&E should report on the Gender Action Plan, which is broader than just gender or sex disaggregation.

Agency Response

Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 22/9/2023

<p><b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b></p> <p>JS 9/22/2023</p> <p>1- This comment has not been addressed. The project is still tagged as contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, when it does not seem obvious how the project would do so in practice. Please either remove the tag or explain how the project is to do so in a significant way.</p> <p>Other comment clear.</p>	<p>the tag on contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, has been removed</p>
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**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b></p> <p><b>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?</b></p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023</p> <p>1- Please explain how the project is to contribute to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p>Yes the gender analysis has been completed. Annexed documents provide details.</p>
<p>2- Output 4.1.1 Project gender- disaggregated M&amp;E system in place, please replace gender-disaggregated with gender-responsive M&amp;E system. Gender-disaggregation (non-binary) or sex-disaggregation (binary) only refers to quantitative monitoring of results (e.g., distribution of beneficiaries by sex/gender). To capture other qualitative gender-related results to address gender inequalities/promote women's empowerment, the M&amp;E should report on the Gender Action Plan, which is broader than just gender or sex disaggregation.</p>	<p>This has been addressed.</p>

**Private Sector Engagement**

**If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023:

1- Please update the following:

COVID induced delays to PPG and MSP implementation	Medium	The COVID-19 pandemic as it unfolds requires continuing attention during PPG and project implementation, safeguarding the health and safety of all stakeholders involved through precautionary measures. During PPG and project implementation an action plan with precautionary measures will be followed to limit specific COVID risks and seize emerging opportunities. The outline of this action plan is formed by the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When possible, conduct consultations in person, but always consider the alternative option of remote consultations (video/phone, etc.).</li><li>• Plan travel to project sites and training events/workshops, when possible, but prepare for alternative scenarios to limit delays and ensure active participation of all stakeholders.</li><li>• Build on the momentum the pandemic has created with more awareness on the importance of a healthy state of the environment and conservation of natural resources and the recognition of the intrinsic values natural capital offers.</li></ul>
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Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

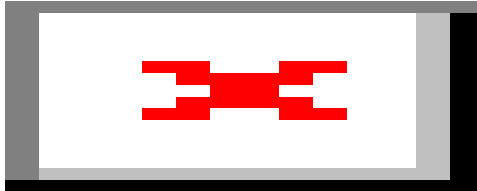
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**Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023:

1- Please update the following:



Whereas COVID-19 has impacted the Government and the economy, the 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Strategy (SPRP) for Africa is a holistic public health, economic, and social recovery plan.

The goals and objectives of the SPRP are included in the country's development strategy.

**Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023

1- Please update the following:

Mechanisms to coordinate are proposed to include (a) a Project Board/Steering Committee which will be chaired by the Department of Environment and include national and local partners (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAF), MinDP, BOS, Departments of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports and Recreation (MinGYSR) etc.) and serve as the key governance and decision-making body for the project (membership will be confirmed during the PPG); (b) a national technical advisory group to

2- Please clarify the composition of the PMU.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Coordination</b></p> <p><b>Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?</b></p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023</p> <p>1- Please update the following:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">[Redacted]</div>	<p>The Project Stee Director Enviro Director Depart Director Range Director Develo Director Bureau Director Gender Local Governm Private Sector F Director Agricu Director Project Director Comm Director Water</p>
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2- Please clarify the composition of the PMU.

The Project Manager  
Project Coordinator  
Project Finance  
Gender and Social

The revised structure



**Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023

1- Please better justify the alignment with the current NBSAP, and/or with current plans for the future NBSAP in preparation to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Consistency with National Priorities</b></p> <p><b>Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?</b></p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023</p> <p>1- Please better justify the alignment with the current NBSAP, and/or with current plans for the future NBSAP in preparation to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	<p>The current NBSAP was updated in 2022. The project will support the project will support the project will support of determining biodiversity.</p> <p>The project falls within the project falls within the project falls within</p>
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**Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared. We note the timeline embedded in the Work Plan (Appendix5) that what uploaded with the new submission.

JS 8/7/2023 -

1-Please provide a timeline for the implementation of key KM&L and communications activities.

Agency Response  
cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Knowledge Management</b></p> <p><b>Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?</b></p> <p>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023 -</p> <p>1-Please provide a timeline for the implementation of key KM&amp;L and communications activities.</p>	<p>Timelines for implementation of communication activities are: NCA Project awareness Development of NCA C Dissemination of know Terminal Evaluation.</p>
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**Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared. We note the maintained low risk rating and the attached SRIF.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.

It is noted that the development of the detailed monitoring plan has been postponed to implementation. Please note that a detailed monitoring plan and corresponding baselines is expected at CEO endorsement request. Please thus ensure that it is developed in the very first phases of implementation.

JS 8/7/2023

1- At \$151,000 from GEF financing, the project M&E budget is well above the indicative threshold of 5% for projects under \$5 million when there does not seem to be particular M&E



challenged. Please revise to remain below 5% (ca. \$56,000 for this project) and in doing so, please ensure amounts are consistent with that of the budget (e.g. the ME and TE are shown with a budget of \$25,000 each in the M&E budget when they appear with \$15,000 each in annex E budget).

2- There is no project monitoring plan provided. We note the inclusion of means of verification and assumptions in the results framework, but the results framework does not clarify the entities responsibilities for monitoring the different indicators. Please clarify.

**Agency Response**  
**cleared on 9/22/2023**

<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>  <b>Does the project include a budgeted M&amp;E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</b>          Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  <b>JS 9/22/2023 - Cleared.</b></p> <p>It is noted that the development of the detailed monitoring plan has been postponed to implementation. Please note that a detailed monitoring plan and corresponding baselines is expected at CEO endorsement request. Please thus ensure that it is developed in the very first phases of implementation.</p>	<p>We promise that a detailed monitoring plan and corresponding baselines will be developed in the very first phases of implementation</p>
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**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b>  <b>Does the project include a budgeted M&amp;E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</b>          Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request          JS 8/7/2023</p> <p>1- At \$151,000 from GEF financing, the project M&amp;E budget is well above the indicative threshold of 5% for projects under \$5 million when there does not seem to be particular M&amp;E challenged. Please revise to remain below 5% (ca. \$56,000 for this project) and in doing so, please ensure amounts are consistent with that of the budget (e.g. the ME and TE are shown with a budget of \$25,000 each in the M&amp;E budget when they appear with \$15,000 each in annex E budget).</p>	<p>The M&amp;E Budget was the previous draft.</p>
<p>2- There is no project monitoring plan provided. WE note the inclusion of means of verification and assumptions in the results framework, but the results framework does not clarify the <b>entities responsibilities for monitoring the different indicators</b>. Please clarify.</p>	<p>A column for responsibilities attached.          A detailed monitoring plan for project implementation</p>

**Benefits**

**Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

Annexes

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 9/22/2023- Cleared.

JS 8/7/2023-

1- We failed to find the agency project document with this submission. Please provide or confirm that the CEO endorsement request itself will be use in the agency's internal processes.

2- Budget:

2a: please see comment on the M&E budget in the M&E comment box above, and revise accordingly.

2b: The budget breakdown by component is different in annex E and in table B (e.g., among multiple discrepancies, component 1 is \$614,000 in annex E vs \$383,000 in table B). Please ensure consistency for all components and PMC across Annex E, Table B and section 9 (M&E Budget).

2c. Please clarify what the following subcontract will cover \$100,000, linking to specific activities/outputs: "Department of Water in the Ministry of Natural Resources".

2d. We note \$45,000 of GEF grant planned for vehicle purchase. Per guidelines, motorized vehicles may be purchased with GEF financing only under specific conditions and should instead generally be covered by co-financed amounts. Please clarify the need, destination and anticipated use of the motorized vehicle and justify that it cannot be covered by co-finance.

Agency Response

cleared on 9/22/2023

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Annexes</b> <b>Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023-</p> <p>1- We failed to find the agency project document with this submission. Please provide or confirm that the CEO endorsement request itself will be use in the agency's internal processes.</p>	<p>the agency project do</p>
<p>2- Budget:</p> <p>2a: please see comment on the M&amp;E budget in the M&amp;E comment box above, and revise accordingly.</p> <p>2b: The budget breakdown by component is different in annex E and in table B (e.g., among multiple discrepancies, component 1 is \$614,000 in annex E vs \$383,000 in table B). Please ensure consistency for all components and PMC across Annex E, Table B and section 9 (M&amp;E Budget).</p> <p>2c. Please clarify what the following subcontract will cover \$100,000, linking to specific activities/outputs: "Department of Water in the Ministry of Natural Resources".</p> <p>2d. We note \$45,000 of GEF grant planned for vehicle purchase. Per guidelines, motorized vehicles may be purchased with GEF financing only under specific conditions and should instead generally be covered by co-financed amounts. Please clarify the need, destination and anticipated use of the motorized vehicle and justify that it cannot be covered by co-finance.</p>	<p>Done.</p> <p>Re-organised for all.</p> <p>Department of Water in responsible for develop</p> <p>The plan for vehicle pu redistributed for other a</p>

**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 10/11/2022 - Cleared.

JS 9/22/2023

2- This comment was not addressed. The RF in the portal entry still does not contain rows corresponding to core indicators 4 and 11. Please include.

Other comment cleared.

JS 8/7/2023-

1- The Results Framework (RF) is off margins and not entirely readable in the portal. Please revise.

2- Please add explicitly all GEF core indicators for which this project has a target in the RF, explaining how they will be measured in practice in the context of this project.

Agency Response

**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 22/9/2023**

<p><b>Project Results Framework</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 9/22/2023</p> <p>2- This comment was not addressed. The RF in the portal entry still does not contain rows corresponding to core indicators 4 and 11. Please include.</p> <p>Other comment cleared.</p>	<p>A revised log frame has been added in the portal</p>
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**Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023**

<p><b>Project Results Framework</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/7/2023-</p> <p>1- The Results Framework (RF) is off margins and not entirely readable in the portal. Please revise.</p> <p>2- Please add explicitly all GEF core indicators for which this project has a target in the RF, explaining how they will be measured in practice in the context of this project.</p>	<p><b>Noted and revised.</b></p> <p><b>Added.</b></p>
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**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 10/11/2022 - Cleared.

JS 9/22/2023

Please remove the current table in Annex B as it relates to response to review comments on the PIF prior to technical clearance and not to comments for the PPG work. Please replace it by a table with your responses, included below, to the requests made in the PIF review sheet for the PPG at the time of PIF approval.

JS 8/7/2023-

A number of request were made in the PIF review sheet for the PPG at the time of PIF approval. However, we failed to find the annex that is supposed to include responses on how they were addressed:

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

Refer to the attached file

Please provide responses to the following comments that were present in the PIF review sheet:

During PPG, please:

-further refine the link between the NCAA and the target policy decision, i.e. watershed management in the Upper Senqu catchment. The specific policy question and instrument (e.g. watershed management plan) that is targeted will have to be clearly defined, and the project's approach to improve watershed management in practice through NCAA will have to be detailed.

- reconsider execution arrangements,, especially to give a prominent execution role to the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) of the Ministry of Development Planning, which will be key for this project. A new LoE or an email from the OFP supporting new execution arrangements would have to be presented in the CEO approval package.

- refine the barrier analysis to identify what are the precise barriers to NCA adoption and practical use to mainstream biodiversity in development planning and management frameworks. The barriers are still for the most part limited to lack of awareness about NCA (with overlaps between barriers 1 and 3) and lack of use of NCA.

- refine decision(s) the project will work on in component 2 and how the project plans to influence it. It will involve explaining how the Upper Senqu Catchment is currently managed, and through what specific means the project is to improve its management (e.g. is there a management plan or equivalent that would be revised with the NCAA results, will the current monitoring framework be augmented with the NCAA tools, etc.).

- develop a strong up-scaling/replication strategy, with remains weak at PIF stage.

- It is duly noted that the project will conduct a gender analysis in the project preparation phase "in order to incorporate a gender perspective in project interventions." In this regard, during PPG, the Agency is requested to take into account in its gender analysis how gender equality considerations could and should be reflected in the different project components, including in the project's outputs related to developing knowledge products and capacity-building/awareness-raising materials and other documents. The Agency may wish to look into the CBD's gender-related documents, including the CBD's post-2020 Gender Plan of Action and related documents on gender-responsive post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

#### Agency Response

#### Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 22/9/2023

<p><b>GEF Secretariat comments</b> Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 9/22/2023</p> <p>Please remove the current table in Annex B as it relates to a response to review comment on the PIF prior to technical clearance and not directed to request for the PPG work. Please replace it by a table with the responses included your responses below to the request made in the PIF review sheet for the PPG at the time of PIF approval.</p>	<p>The wrong table has been removed and replaced with the correct one.</p>
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#### Response to the first GEF review comments raised on 8/7/2023

**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/7/2023-

A number of request were made in the PIF review sheet for the PPG at the time of PIF approval. However, we failed to find the annex that is supposed to include responses on how they were addressed:



**Annex added w**

Please provide responses to the following comments that were present in the PIF review sheet:

During PPG, please:

-further refine the link between the NCAA and the target policy decision, i.e. watershed management in the Upper Senqu catchment. The specific policy question and instrument (e.g. watershed management plan) that is targeted will have to be clearly defined, and the project's approach to improve watershed management in practice through NCAA will have to be detailed.

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Refer to 7 under

#### Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**



**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Cleared

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Cleared.

Agency Response **Cleared on 8/7/2023**

**Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

**N/A**

**Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response **N/A**

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**JS 10/20/2023 - Yes, CEO endorsement is recommended.**

**JS 10/11/2022 - Not at this stage. Please address the remaining comments (see first comment box) included in this review sheet and resubmit.**

**JS 9/22/2023- Not at this stage. Please address the few remaining comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.**

JS 8/7/2023- Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>8/7/2023</b>	<b>9/18/2023</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>9/22/2023</b>	<b>9/22/2023</b>

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>10/11/2023</b>	<b>10/10/2023</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>10/20/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>		

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**