

# Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10727

**Countries**

Nepal

**Project Name**

Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN)

**Agencies**

WWF-US

**Date received by PM**

3/5/2022

**Review completed by PM**

5/12/2022

**Program Manager**

Yuki Shiga

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

FSP

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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 Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**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 Yes.

Agency Response  
**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 Yes

Agency Response  
**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 Yes

Agency Response  
**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

4.11.2022:

Cleared.

3.7.2022:

Core Indicator 2 has been reduced from 10,000 at PIF stage to 200. Please provide background and justification to this change.

## Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

Thank you for this observation. The amount of land that will be impacted has not reduced since PIF stage, this has been corrected to incorporate the 10,000 ha of community leasehold forests brought under improved management and 2,465 ha of degraded/ vulnerable catchment areas rehabilitated/ protected for resilience against climate disasters, which have both now been listed as "rural landscape" under Core Indicator 2.

## 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

Yes.

## Agency Response

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

## Agency Response

**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

5.11.2022:

Clear.

## Agency Response

5/11/22 Thank you for this observation. The theory of change diagram, also found in the Project Document in Appendix 3: Results Chain, has been added into the CEO ER Submission.

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

- This observation is noted. The Rio Marker for Climate Change Mitigation has been adjusted to be "0" instead of "1". In response to the second comment, the Theory of Change has now been described in detail in Section C)THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO.

- The Project Document contains detailed information on proposed activities and objectives for each of the project components. These activities as well as descriptions of each component to the "output" level have been added into the CEO ER.

- Additional text describing the details of Component 2 and what "field investments" might encompass has been added to the CEO ER. Please see the section on the Proposed Alternative Scenario, component 2 for examples. Please also note that details on project activities, implementing partners and the execution mechanism have been provided in the GEF Agency ProDoc.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

4.11.2022:

Cleared.

3.7.2022:

Please refer to the comment on Part II-3. Examples regarding 'the field investment for technology transfer of climate-adaptative solutions' could provide further clarity on the innovation.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

'Thank you for this comment. The section in the CEO ER on Innovation and potential for scaling up has been expanded. The section on the Alternative Scenario also includes more details under Component 2 on interventions and field investments (for example: promotion of high-value crops and climate-resilient varieties of seeds and seedlings). The project is innovative in its approach to address climate vulnerability as it adopts an integrated watershed management approach to strengthen the Provincial government's Soil and Watershed Management Office. The project will bring together all relevant technical units/stakeholders (forest, agriculture, irrigation) to deliver multiple benefits for communities and ecosystems to address climate change.

The proposed climate adaptive solutions are relatively new as there are limited investments in the project area; technologies that are identified as climate smart agriculture practices will be transferred in the project area.

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

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

4.11.2022:

Cleared.

3.7.2022:

Stakeholder engagement plan is adequate and elaborated; however, CEOER seems to lack stakeholder engagement during the PPG.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

Thank you for this comment. As noted, the SEP and Project Document contain detailed information on stakeholder engagement thus far as well as plans for engagement during project implementation. A summary of stakeholder engagement during PPG phase, including descriptions of project design workshops, key informant interviews, project development inception and household surveys conducted has been added to the CEO ER.

**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  
**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  
Yes.

Agency Response  
**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  
Yes.

Agency Response  
**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  
4.11.2022:  
Cleared.

3.7.2022:  
According to explanation provided in section 6, the WWF-US, an implementing agency of this project, seems to also take a partial role as an executing agency. Only MoFE is listed under other executing partner(s). Please clarify. The GEF guideline only allows implementing agency to also execute project activities on an exceptional basis. If that was the case, please provide clear justification for such IA/EA arrangement, along with an explanation on what efforts have been put during PPG to look for alternative options. Also, such request needs to come from the OFP.



## Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

The institutional arrangements for this project will mimic the institutional arrangements developed for the WWF GEF 7 project: 'Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors (GEF ID 9437)'. The institutional arrangements are also seen in the WWF GEF Project 'Building National Capacities of Nepal to meet requirements of the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement (GEF ID 10899)'. The project will be executed by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOFE), Government of Nepal. The local community groups, municipalities and state government agencies will be key partners for the implementation at local and state level. MOFE will be responsible for communicating with the national GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) regarding the status of project implementation. WWF as the GEF implementing agency will communicate and coordinate with GEF secretariat as appropriate. Support from WWF Nepal to the government in recruitment of staff or determining appropriate interventions for the project will be provided if needed.

## 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

Yes.

## Agency Response

**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

Yes.

## Agency Response

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**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

Yes.

Agency Response

**Annexes**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

4.11.2022:

Cleared.

3.7.2022:

Annex B: lacks response to Council member comments, including Germany and Canada.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

Thank you for this observation. The comments from Council members from Germany and Canada have been added into Annex B of the CEO ER. Responses to the comments have also been added.

**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**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

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response  
WWF GEF Agency 4.7.22

**Please Note:** After feedback that the WWF Nepal team garnered from the Ministry of Forests and Environment the budget has been adjusted slightly. The total of component 2 was altered by approximately 300 USD. Within Component 2, 121,364 USD was subtracted from Outcome 2.1, Increased adaptive capacity of vulnerable household in the Marin Watershed to climate-induced disasters such as landslides, floods, droughts and forest fire and 121,673 USD was added to Outcome 2.2: Nature Based Solutions: (NBS)reduce climate induced vulnerabilities of community livelihood resources and assets. Co-financing figures have also been adjusted slightly based on feedback from the ministry.

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response  
**Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response  
**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response  
**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  
Agency Response

**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

Agency Response

**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

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

5.17.2022:

This CEOER is recommended for technical clearance.

5.16.2022:

Not yet. Please address the following(s):

- 1- The Notification: 'Grant Amount' should be project financing (should not include PPG and fees). Also, 'Agency Fee' should not include PPG fee. Please double check.
- 3- Annual project audit: clear should not be included under the M&E budget but should be under PMC:
- 4- A total row to the M&E budget: clear
- 5- Motor vehicles: approved.

5.13.2022:

Not yet. Please address the followings:

- 1- The Notification was not found in the document?'s tab.
- 3- Annual project audit should not be included under the M&E budget but should be under PMC:
- 4- Please add a total row to the M&E budget ? this total has to match the other budget tables and Table B in Portal:
- 5- Per Guidelines, motor vehicles preferable have covered by co-financing. Or, please provide sufficient justification on why motor vehicles are indispensable to the project.

4.11.2022 /3.7.2022:

Not yet. Please refer to the review items and resubmit for consideration (please highlight the change).

**Review Dates**

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat  
comments**

<b>First Review</b>	<b>3/7/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/11/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/11/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/13/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/16/2022</b>	

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**